



FEB 6 1968

The Society intends to complete, as soon as its funds will allow, the Reprints of its out-of-print Texts of the year 1866, and also of nos. 20, 26 and 33. Prof. Skeat has finisht Partenay; Dr. McKnight of Ohio King Horn and Floris and Blancheflour; and Dr. Furnivall his Political, Religious and Love Poems and Myrc's Duties of a Parish Priest. Dr. Otto Glauning has undertaken Seinte Marherete; and Dr. Furnivall has Hali Meidenhad in type. As the cost of these Reprints, if they were not needed, would have been devoted to fresh Texts, the Reprints will be sent to all Members in lieu of such Texts. Though called 'Reprints,' these books are new editions, generally with valuable additions, a fact not noticed by a few careless receivers of them, who have complained that they already had the volumes. As the Society's copies of the Facsimile of the Epinal MS. issued as an Extra Volume in 1883 are exhausted, Mr. J. H. Hessels, M.A., of St. John's Coll., Cambridge, has kindly undertaken an edition of the MS. for the Society. This will be substituted for the Facsimile as an 1883 book, but will be also issued to all the present Members.

Inly 1904. The Original Series Texts for 1903 were: No. 122 Part II of The Level MS.

July 1904. The Original-Series Texts for 1903 were: No. 122, Part II of *The Laud MS*. *Troy-Book*, edited from the unique Laud MS. 595 by Dr. J. E. Wülfing; and No. 123, Part II of Robert of Brunne's *Handlyng Synne*, and its French original, ed. by Dr. F. J. Furnivall.

of Robert of Brunne's Handlyng Synne, and its French original, ed. by Dr. F. J. Furnivall.

The Extra-Series Texts for 1903 are to be: No. LXXXVIII, Le Morte Arthur, in 8-line stanzas, re-edited from the unique MS. Harl. 2252, by Prof. J. Douglas Bruce (issued), No. LXXXIX, Lydgate's Reason and Sensuality, edited by Dr. Ernst Sieper, Part II, and English Fragments from Latin Medieval Service-Books, edited, and given to the Society, by

Mr. Henry Littlehales.

The Original-Series Texts for 1904 will be No. 124, t. Hen. V, Twenty-six Political and other Poems from the Digby MS. 102, &c., edited by Dr. J. Kail, and No. 125, Part I of the Medieval Records of a London City Church (St. Mary-at-Hill), A.D. 1420-1559, copied and edited by Mr. Henry Littlehales from the Church Records in the Guildhall, the cost of the setting and corrections of the text being generously borne by its Editor. show the income and outlay of the church; the drink provided for its Palm-Sunday players, its officers' excursions into Kent and Essex, its dealing with the Plague, the disposal of its goods at the Reformation, &c., &c., and will help our members to realize the churchlife of its time. The third Text will be Part I of An Alphabet of Tales, a very interesting collection, englisht in the Northern Dialect, about 1440, from the Latin Alphabetum Narrationum by Etienne de Bésançon, and edited by Mrs. M. M. Banks from the unique MS. in the King's Library in the British Museum; the above-named three texts are now ready for issue. Those for 1905 and 1906 will probably be chosen from Part II of the Exeter Book-Anglo-Saxon Poems from the unique MS. in Exeter Cathedral-re-edited by Israel Gollancz, M.A.; Part II of Prof. Dr. Holthausen's Vices and Virtues; Part II of Jacob's Well, edited by Dr. Brandeis; the Alliterative Siege of Jerusalem, edited by the late Prof. Dr. E. Kölbing and Prof. Dr. Kaluza; an Introduction and Glossary to the Minor Poems of the Vernon MS. by H. Hartley, M.A.; Alain Chartier's Quadrilogue, edited from the unique MS. Univ. Coll. Oxford MS. No. 85, by Mr. J. W. H. Atkins of Owen's College; a Northern Verse Chronicle of England to 1327 A.D., in 42,000 lines, about 1420 A.D., edited by M. L. Perrin, B.A.; Prof. Bruce's Introduction to The English Conquest of Ireland, Part II; and Dr. Furnivall's edition of the Lichfield Gilds, which is all printed, and waits only for the Introduction, that Prof. E. C. K. Gonner has kindly undertaken to write for the book. Canon Wordsworth of Marlborough has given the Society a copy of the Leofric Canonical Rule, Latin and Anglo-Saxon, Parker MS. 191, C. C. C. Cambridge, and Prof. Napier will edit it, with a fragment of the english Capitula of Bp. Theodulf. The Coventry Leet Book is being copied for the Society by Miss M. Dormer Harris—helpt by a contribution from the Common Council of the City, -and will be publisht by the Society (Miss Harris editing), as its contribution to our knowledge of the provincial city life of the 15th century.

Dr. Brie of Berlin has undertaken to edit the prose Brut or Chronicle of Britain attributed to Sir John Mandeville, and printed by Caxton. He has already examined more than 100 English MSS, and several French ones, to get the best toyt and find out its course.

than 100 English MSS. and several French ones, to get the best text, and find out its source. The Extra-Series Texts for 1904 will be chosen from Lydgate's DeGuilleville's Pilgrimage of the Life of Man, Part III, edited by Miss Locock; Dr. M. Konrath's re-edition of William of Shorcham's Poems, Part II; Dr. E. A. Kock's edition of Lovelich's Merlin from the unique MS. in Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge; the Macro Plays, edited from Mr. Gurney's MS. by Dr. Furnivall and A. W. Pollard, M. A.; Prof. Erdmann's re-edition of Lydgate's Siege of Thebes (issued also by the Chaucer Society); Miss Rickert's re-edition of the Romance of Emare; Prof. I. Gollancz's re-edition of two Alliterative Poems, Winner and Waster, &c., ab. 1360, lately issued for the Roxburghe Club; Dr. Norman Moore's re-edition of The Book of the Foundation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, from the unique MS. ab. 1425, which gives an account of the Founder, Rahere, and the miraculous cures wrought at the Hospital; The Craft of Nombrynge, with other of the earliest englisht Treatises on Arithmetic, edited by R. Steele, B.A.; and Miss Warren's two-text edition of The Dance of Death from the Ellesmere and other MSS.

These Extra-Series Texts ought to be completed by their Editors: the Second Part of the prose Romance of *Melusine*—Introduction, with ten facsimiles of the best woodblocks of the old foreign black-letter editions, Glossary, &c., by A. K. Donald, B.A. (now in India);

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and a new edition of the famous Early-English Dictionary (English and Latin), Promptorium Parvulorum, from the Winchester MS., ab. 1440 A.D.: in this, the Editor, the Rev. A. I. Mayhew, M.A., will follow and print his MS. not only in its arrangement of nouns first, and verbs second, under every letter of the Alphabet, but also in its giving of the flexions of the words. The Society's edition will thus be the first modern one that really represents its original, a point on which Mr. Mayhew's insistence will meet with the sympathy of all our Members.

The Texts for the Extra Series in 1906 and 1907 will be chosen from The Three Kings' Sons, Part II, the Introduction &c. by Prof. Dr. Leon Kellner; Part II of The Chester Plays, re-edited from the MSS., with a full collation of the formerly missing Devonshire MS., by Mr. G. England and Dr. Matthews; the Parallel-Text of the only two MSS. of the Owl and Nightingale, edited by Mr. G. F. H. Sykes (at press); Prof. Jespersen's editions of John Hart's Orthographie (MS. 1551 A.D.; blackletter 1569), and Method to teach Reading, 1570; Deguilleville's Pilgrimage of the Sowle, in English prose, edited by Prof. Dr. L. Kellner. (For the three prose versions of The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man—two English, one French-an Editor is wanted.) Members are askt to realise the fact that the Society has now 50 years' work on its Lists, -at its present rate of production, -and that there is from 100 to 200 more years' work to come after that. The year 2000 will not see finisht all the Texts that the Society ought to print. The need of more Members and money is pressing. Offers of help from willing Editors have continually to be declined because the Society has no funds to print their Texts.

An urgent appeal is hereby made to Members to increase the list of Subscribers to the E. E. Text Society. It is nothing less than a scandal that the Hellenic Society should have

nearly 1000 members, while the Early English Text Society has not 300!

Before his death in 1895, Mr. G. N. Currie was preparing an edition of the 15th and 16th century Prose Versions of Guillaume de Deguilleville's Pilgrimage of the Life of Man, with the French prose version by Jean Gallopes, from Lord Aldenham's MS., he having generously promist to pay the extra cost of printing the French text, and engraving one or two of the illuminations in his MS. But Mr. Currie, when on his deathbed, charged a friend to burn all his MSS, which lay in a corner of his room, and unluckily all the E. E. T. S.'s copies of the Deguilleville prose versions were with them, and were burnt with them, so that the Society will be put to the cost of fresh copies, Mr. Currie having died in debt.

Guillaume de Deguilleville, monk of the Cistercian abbey of Chaalis, in the diocese of Senlis, wrote his first verse Pèlerinaige de l'Homme in 1330-1 when he was 36. Twenty-five (or six) years after, in 1355, he revised his poem, and issued a second version of it, 2 a revision of which was printed ab. 1500. Of the prose representative of the first version, 1330-1, a prose Englishing, about 1430 A.D., was edited by Mr. Aldis Wright for the Roxburghe Club in 1869, from MS. Ff. 5. 30 in the Cambridge University Library. Other copies of this prose English are in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, Q. 2. 25; Sion College, London; and the Laud Collection in the Bodleian, no. 740. A copy in the Northern dialect is MS. G. 21, in St. John's Coll., Cambridge, and this is the MS. which will be edited for the E. E. Text The Laud MS. 740 was somewhat condenst and modernised, in the 17th century, into MS. Ff. 6. 30, in the Cambridge University Library: 4 "The Pilgrime or the Pilgrimage of Man in this World," copied by Will. Baspoole, whose copy "was verbatim written by Walter Parker, 1645, and from thence transcribed by G. G. 1649; and from thence by W. A. 1655." This last copy may have been read by, or its story reported to, Bunyan, and may have been the groundwork of his Pilgrim's Progress. It will be edited for the E. E. T. Soc., its text running under the earlier English, as in Mr. Herrtage's edition of the Gesta Romanorum for the Society. In February 1464, Jean Gallopes—a clerk of Angers, afterwards chaplain to John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France-turned Deguilleville's first verse Pèlerinaige into a prose Pèlerinage de la vie humaine. By the kindness of Lord Aldenham, as above mentiond, Gallopes's French text will be printed opposite the early prose northern Englishing in the Society's edition.

The Second Version of Deguilleville's Pelerinaige de l'Homme, A.D. 1355 or -6, was englisht in verse by Lydgate in 1426. Of Lydgate's poem, the larger part is in the Cotton MS. Vitellius C. xiii (leaves 2-308). This MS. leaves out Chaucer's englishing of Deguilleville's ABC or Prayer to the Virgin, of which the successive stanzas start with A, B, C, and run all thro' the alphabet; and it has 2 main gaps, besides many small ones from the tops of leaves being burnt in the Cotton fire. All these gaps (save the ABC) have been fild up from the Stowe MS. 952 (which old John Stowe completed) and from the end of the other imperfect MS. Cotton, Tiberius A vii. Thanks to the diligence of the old Elizabethan tailor and

¹ He was born about 1295. See Abbé Goujer's Bibliothèque française, Vol. IX, p. 73-4.—P. M. The Roxburghe Club printed the 1st version in 1893.

² The Roxburghe Club's copy of this 2nd version was lent to Mr. Currie, and unluckily burnt too with his other MSS.

3 These 3 MSS, have not yet been collated, but are believed to be all of the same version.

⁴ Another MS, is in the Pepys Library. ⁵ According to Lord Aldenham's MS.

⁶ These were printed in France, late in the 15th or early in the 16th century.

manuscript-lover, a complete text of Lydgate's poem can be given, though that of an inserted theological prose treatise is incomplete. The British Museum French MSS. (Harleian 4399.1

and Additional 22,9372 and 25,5943) are all of the First Version.

Besides his first Pèlerinaige de l'homme in its two versions, Deguilleville wrote a second, "de l'ame separee du corps," and a third, "de nostre seigneur Iesus." Of the second, a prose Englishing of 1413, The Pilgrimage of the Sowle (with poems by Hoccleve, already printed for the Society with that author's Regement of Princes), exists in the Egerton MS. 615,4 at Hatfield, Cambridge (Univ. Kk. 1. 7, and Caius), Oxford (Univ. Coll. and Corpus), and in Caxton's edition of 1483. This version has 'somewhat of addicions' as Caxton says, and some shortenings too, as the maker of both, the first translater, tells us in the MSS. Caxton leaves out the earlier englisher's interesting Epilog in the Egerton MS. This prose englishing of the Sowle will be edited for the Society by Prof. Dr. Leon Kellner after that of the Man is finisht, and will have Gallopes's French opposite it, from Lord Aldenham's MS., as his gift to the Society. Of the Pilgrimage of Jesus, no englishing is known.

As to the MS. Anglo-Saxon Psalters, Dr. Hy. Sweet has edited the oldest MS., the Vespasian, in his Oldest English Texts for the Society, and Mr. Harsley has edited the latest, c. 1150, Eadwine's Canterbury Psalter. The other MSS., except the Paris one, being interlinear versions, -some of the Roman-Latin redaction, and some of the Gallican, -Prof. Logeman has prepared for press, a Parallel-Text edition of the first twelve Psalms, to start the complete work. He will do his best to get the Paris Psalter-tho' it is not an interlinear one-into this collective edition; but the additional matter, especially in the Verse-Psalms, is very difficult to manage. If the Paris text cannot be parallelised, it will form a separate The Early English Psalters are all independent versions, and will follow separately

Through the good offices of the Examiners, some of the books for the Early-English Examinations of the University of London will be chosen from the Society's publications, the Committee having undertaken to supply such books to students at a large reduction in price. The net profits from these sales will be applied to the Society's Reprints.

Members are reminded that fresh Subscribers are always wanted, and that the Committee can at any time, on short notice, send to press an additional Thousand Pounds' worth of work.

The Subscribers to the Original Series must be prepared for the issue of the whole of the Early English Lives of Saints, sooner or later. The Society cannot leave out any of them, even though some are dull. The Sinners would doubtless be much more interesting. But in many Saints' Lives will be found valuable incidental details of our forefathers' social state, and all are worthful for the history of our language. The Lives may be lookt on as the religious romances or story-books of their period.

The Standard Collection of Saints' Lives in the Corpus and Ashmole MSS., the Harleian MS. 2277, &c. will repeat the Laud set, our No. 87, with additions, and in right order. (The foundation MS. (Laud 108) had to be printed first, to prevent quite unwieldy collations.) The Supplementary Lives from the Vernon and other MSS, will form one or two separate volumes.

Besides the Saints' Lives, Trevisa's englishing of Bartholomæus de Proprietatibus Rerum, the mediæval Cyclopædia of Science, &c., will be the Society's next big undertaking. Dr. R. von Fleischhacker will edit it. Prof. Napier of Oxford, wishing to have the whole of our MS. Anglo-Saxon in type, and accessible to students, will edit for the Society all the unprinted and other Anglo-Saxon Homilies which are not included in Thorpe's edition of Ælfric's prose, 5 Dr. Morris's of the Blickling Homilies, and Prof. Skeat's of Ælfric's Metrical Homilies. The late Prof. Kölbing left complete his text, for the Society, of the Ancren Riwle, from the best MS., with collations of the other four, and this will be edited for the Society by Dr. Thümmler. Mr. Harvey means to prepare an edition of the three MSS. of the Earliest English Metrical Psalter, one of which was edited by the late Mr. Stevenson for the Surtees Society.

Members of the Society will learn with pleasure that its example has been followed, not only by the Old French Text Society which has done such admirable work under its founders Profs. Paul Meyer and Gaston Paris, but also by the Early Russian Text Society, which was set on foot in 1877, and has since issued many excellent editions of old MS. Chronicles, &c.

Members will also note with pleasure the annexation of large tracts of our Early English territory by the important German contingent, the late Professors Zupitza and Kölbing, the living Hausknecht, Einenkel, Haenisch, Kaluza, Hupe, Adam, Holthausen, Schick, Herzfeld, Brandeis, Sieper, Konrath, Wülfing, &c. Scandinavia has also sent us Prof. Erdmann and Dr. E. A. Kock; Holland, Prof. H. Logeman, who is now working in Belgium; France, Prof.

1 15th cent., containing only the Vie humaine.
2 15th cent., containing all the 3 Pilgrimages, the 3rd being Jesus Christ's.
3 14th cent., containing the Vie humaine and the 2nd Pilgrimage, de l'Ame: both incomplete.
4 Ab. 1430, 106 leaves (leaf 1 of text wanting), with illuminations of nice little devils—red, green, tawny,

&c.—and damnd souls, fires, angels &c.

5 Of these. Mr. Harsley is preparing a new edition, with collations of all the MSS. Many copies of Thorpe's book, not issued by the Ælfric Society, are still in stock.

Of the Vercelli Homilies, the Society has bought the copy made by Prof. G. Lattanzi.

Paul Meyer—with Gaston Paris as adviser (alas, now dead);—Italy, Prof. Lattanzi; Austria, Dr. von Fleischhacker; while America is represented by the late Prof. Child, by Dr. Mary Noyes Colvin, Miss Rickert, Profs. Mead, McKnight, Triggs, Perrin, &c. The sympathy, the ready help, which the Society's work has cald forth from the Continent and the United States, have been among the pleasantest experiences of the Society's life, a real aid and cheer amid all troubles and discouragements. All our Members are grateful for it, and recognise that the bond their work has woven between them and the lovers of language and antiquity across the seas is one of the most welcome results of the Society's efforts.

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14.	Kyng Horn, Floris and Blancheflour, &c., ed. Rev. J. R. Lumby, B.D., re-ed. Dr. G. H. McKnight, 5s.	- 22
15.	Political, Religious, and Love Poems, ed. F. J. Furnivall. 7s. 6d.	22
16.	The Book of Quinte Essence, ab. 1460-70, ed. F. J. Furnivall. 1s.	22
17.	Parallel Extracts from 45 MSS. of Piers the Plowman, ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat. 1s.	2.2
18.	Hali Meidenhad, ab. 1200, ed. Rev. O. Cockayne, re-edited by Dr. F. J. Furnivall. [At Press.	17
19.	Lyndesay's Monarche, &c., Part II., ed. J. Small, M.A. 3s. 6d.	**
20.	Hampole's English Prose Treatises, ed. Rev. G. G. Perry. 1s. [Out of print.	2.7
21.	Merlin, Part II., ed. H. B. Wheatley. 4s.	2.2
22.	Partenay or Lusignen, ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat.	2.7
23.	Dan Michel's Ayenbite of Inwyt, 1340, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. 10s. 6d.	11
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29.	Old English Homilies (ab. 1220-30 A.D.). Series I, Part I. Edited by Rev. Dr. R. Morris. 7s.	2.5
30.	Pierce the Ploughmans Crede, ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat. 2s.	
31.	Myro's Duties of a Parish Priest, in Verse, ab. 1420 A.D., ed. E. Peacock. 4s.	1868
32.	Early English Meals and Manners: the Boke of Norture of John Russell, the Bokes of Keruynge,	- 1
	Curtasye, and Demeanor, the Babees Book, Urbanitatis, &c., ed. F. J. Furnivall. 12s.	* *
33.	The Knight de la Tour Landry, ab. 1440 A.D. A Book for Daughters, ed. T. Wright, M.A. [Out of prin	ıt.
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37.	Sir David Lyndesay's Works, Part IV., Ane Satyre of the Three Estaits. Ed. F. Hall, D.C.L. 4s.	51
38.	William's Vision of Piers the Plowman, Part II. Text B. Ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat, M.A. 10s. 6d.	12
39.	Alliterative Romance of the Destruction of Troy. Ed. D. Donaldson & G. A. Panton. Pt. I. 10s. 6d.	2.2
40.	English Gilds, their Statutes and Customs, 1389 A.D. Edit. Toulmin Smith and Lucy T. Smith,	
	with an Essay on Gilds and Trades-Unions, by Dr. L. Brentano. 21s.	1870
41.	William Lauder's Minor Poems. Ed. F. J. Furnivall. 3s.	22
42.	Bernardus De Cura Rei Famuliaris, Early Scottish Prophecies, &c. Ed. J. R. Lumby, M.A. 2s.	55
43.	Ratis Raving, and other Moral and Religious Pieces. Ed. J. R. Lumby, M.A.	22
44.	The Alliterative Romance of Joseph of Arimathie, or The Holy Grail: from the Vernon MS.;	
	with W. de Worde's and Pynson's Lives of Joseph: ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat, M.A. 5s.	1871
45.	King Alfred's West-Saxon Version of Gregory's Pastoral Care, edited from 2 MSS., with an	
	English translation, by Henry Sweet, Esq., B.A., Balliol College, Oxford. Part I. 10s.	,,
46.	Legends of the Holy Rood, Symbols of the Passion and Cross Poems, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. 10s.	22
47.	Sir David Lyndesay's Works, Part V., ed. Dr. J. A. H. Murray. 3s.	12
48.	The Times' Whistle, and other Poems, by R. C., 1616; ed. by J. M. Cowper, Esq. 6s.	22
49.	An Old English Miscellany, containing a Bestiary, Kentish Sermons, Proverbs of Alfred, and	
	Religious Poems of the 13th cent., ed. from the MSS. by the Rev. R. Morris, LL.D. 10s.	1872
0.	King Alfred's West-Saxon Version of Gregory's Pastoral Care, ed. H. Sweet, M.A. Part II. 10s.	22
51.	The Life of St Juliana, 2 versions, A.D. 1230, with translations; ed. T. O. Cockayne & E. Brock. 2s.	22

52	Palladius on Husbondrie, englisht (ab. 1420 A.D.), ed. Rev. Barton Lodge, M.A. Part I. 108.	1872
53.	Old-English Homilies, Series II., and three Hymns to the Virgin and God, 13th-century, with	
00.	the music to two of them, in old and modern notation; ed. Rev. R. Morris, LL.D. 8s.	1873
54.	The Vision of Piers Plowman, Text C: Richard the Redeles (by William, the author of the Vision)	
	and The Crowned King; Part III., ed. Rev. W. W. Skeat, M.A. 18s.	,,
55.	Generydes, a Romance, ab. 1440 A.D., ed. W. Aldis Wright, M.A. Part I. 3s.	2.3
56.	The Gest Hystoriale of the Destruction of Troy, in alliterative verse; ed. by D. Donaldson, Esq.,	
	and the late Rev. G. A. Panton. Part II. 10s. 6d.	1874
57.	The Early English Version of the "Cursor Mundi"; in four Texts, edited by the Rev. R. Morris,	
	M.A., LL.D. Part I, with 2 photolithographic facsimiles. 10s. 6d.	9.9
58.	The Blickling Homilies, 971 A.D., ed. Rev. R. Morris, LL.D. Part I. 8s.	9.9
59.	The "Cursor Mundi," in four Texts, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. Part II. 15s.	1875
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61.	The Romance and Prophecies of Thomas of Erceldoune, from 5 MSS.; ed. Dr. J. A. H. Murray. 10s. 6c	d. ,,
62.	The "Cursor Mundi," in four Texts, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. Part III. 15s.	1876
63.	The Blickling Homilies, 971 A.D., ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. Part II. 78.	22
	Francis Thynne's Embleames and Epigrams, A.D. 1600, ed. F. J. Furnivall. 7s.	9.9
	Be Domes Dæge (Bede's De Die Judicii), &c., ed. J. R. Lumby, B.D. 28.	9.3
	The "Cursor Mundi," in four Texts, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris. Part IV., with 2 autotypes. 10s.	1877
	Notes on Piers Plowman, by the Rev. W. W. Skeat, M.A. Part I. 21s.	99
	The "Cursor Mundi," in 4 Texts, ed. Rev. Dr. R. Morris Part V. 25s.	1878
	Adam Davie's 5 Dreams about Edward II., &c., ed. F Furnivall, M.A. 5s.	29
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	The Lay Folks Mass-Book, four texts, ed. Rev. Canon Simmons. 25s.	1879
	Palladius on Husbondrie, englisht (ab. 1420 A.D.). Part II. Ed. S. J. Herrtage, B.A. 15s.	99
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Twenty-Six Political and other Poems

FROM THE OXFORD MSS.

DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

PART I.

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1904

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(Kucluding 'Petty Job')

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DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

EDITED,

WITH INTRODUCTION AND GLOSSARIAL INDEX,

By DR. J. KAIL.

PART I.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE first twenty-four poems of the present volume are preserved in the Digby MS. 102, of the Bodleian. This MS., a parchment codex of the 15th century, contains: 1. W. Langland's Vision concerning Piers the Ploughman and concerning Dowel, Dobet, and Dobest, leaves 1-97, imperfect at the beginning, commencing in the middle of passus III. The text agrees with the C-text printed by the Rev. W. Skeat. 2. The present poems, composed in the first quarter of the 15th century, leaves 98-127. 3. A metrical paraphrase of the seven Penitential Psalms by Richard of Maydestone, leaves 128-135. 4. The debate of the Body and the Soul, leaves 136-139. The present pieces are written across the page like prose, the divisions of the lines being only marked by little strokes. The titles in red were added at a later time, but probably by the same copyist; the same is the case with the paragraph-marks, alternately red and blue, at the beginning of every stanza, and with the Latin marginal notes which occur on some pages. Leaf 119 was turned over together with leaf 120, and so the titles and the coloured paragraph-marks are missing in the 19th and 20th poems, which stand on leaf 119, back, and on leaf 120.

All twenty-four poems are most probably by the same author. Almost all of them have one and the same religious character. They warn against worldly folly, and praise virtue, always setting a great value on the works of a man, but none on his words. They frequently recommend righteousness for practical reasons. During the turbulent reign of Henry IV., and in the beginning of the French war under Henry V., the poems promise the virtuous, besides the bliss of heaven, success in worldly affairs, riches, power, and good advice. In time of war, the pious may rely on God, for He fights for them, He gives them courage and victory, and beats their enemies with illness, fear, and woe. (H 75; HI 76, 85, 95, 109 et sqq.; IX 141 et sqq.; X 180 et sqq.; XI 53 et sqq., 81 et sqq., 91 et sqq.; XVII 127.) The wicked are threatened with cowardice,

viii The Poems are democratic, and denounce all Wrong-doing.

dread, strife, and defeat (II 73 et sqq.; III 75, 77; IV 195 et sqq.; XI 84; XIII 86).

Further, the pieces show one and the same democratic tendency. They declare the Commons to be the most important of all estates; the Commons make a kingdom (III 99 et sqy.), they support the honour of the lords and of the church, they are the ornament of the king's crown (XII 141 et sqq.); to stand with them, is the highest charity, which God alone can reward (XIII 33 et sqy.). The poems strive also to protect the lower ranks against the encroachments of the lords and officers, especially against the injustice of the judges. The laws had already been very badly executed in the last years of Edward III.; under Richard II, they lost the rest of their power; and it was long before Henry IV. succeeded in restoring them to their former author-In his reign, too, the judges, instead of binding themselves to the old laws and statutes, took bribes, and were led by favour and self-interest; and the nobility often used oppression against the inferior classes, and took their property with wrong. The present pieces call upon the judges to be just, and not to sell their judgments for money (I 153 et sqq.; III 12; IX 57 et sqq.; XVIII 180). Officers are warned that the people belong to God, and that He has ordered them to govern it after right and reason, and without selfishness (I 17 et sqq.; III 129 et sqq.; XIII 51 et sq.). The nobility are reminded that they will have to account for everything they possess, and for the means by which they got it; therefore, they are exhorted to let everybody have his due, and to restore to the poor the goods of which they have robbed them surreptitiously (I 25 et sqq., 33, 117; VII 81 et sqq.; VIII 3 et sqq.; X 197 et sqq.; XI 42; XIV 59, 66; XVII 83 et sqq.; XIX 37, 58 et sqq.; 149 et sq.).

The poems aim also at such persons as injure the people indirectly by defacing truth, by flattering the king and the lords, and by misleading them, by their counsel, to bad actions. They contain many a line in defence of truth, and to the suppression of falsehood. They like to represent Truth and Falsehood as persons always persecuting and fighting each other (IV 12, 113; XII 67 et sq. 73; XIII 30, 100, 103 et sq.). Truth never retires cowardly (III 5; IV 157; XII 74), for God sends His champion Vengeance to his help (IV 115, 117 et sqq.; XII 77 et sqq.; XIII 85 et sqq.). Truth cannot be entirely subdued; he always appears again, and speaks before the whole people (IV 97-104; XII 76; XIII 59). Many of these pieces caution against those who, practising sycophancy, sow discord between the

sovereign and the people. Men of the highest ranks should not listen to the wicked counsels of such vicious folk, which may destroy a whole kingdom, but rather follow the wholesome advice of true men (I 60; III 81 et sq.; IV 73 et sqq., 145 et sqq.; V 1 et sqq.; XVI 7 et sq. 51; XXIV 405 et sq.). Nobles ought to support the poor and virtuous, instead of promoting unworthy and needless people (IV 169 et sqq.; V 41 et sqq.; VII 65 et sqq.; XIV 85; XXI 38, 122).

Likewise, the present pieces are not blind to the abuses of the clergy, both parish-priests and monks, but frequently inveigh against them in sharp words. They resent the covetousness of the priests (VIII 25 et sqq.; XIV 25 et sqq. 81), their neglectfulness of duty (VIII 28: IX 161-176; XIII 147-172), and other trespasses (XVIII). But though the poems are not quite free from the ideas of the Reformation, they are by no means by a Lollard, for they never touch the doctrines of the Church; on the contrary, they even defend them, especially such as had been attacked by Wiclif.

Moreover, nearly all the pieces are occasional poems, for which church-ceremonies or festivals, parliamentary transactions, and events of public interest offered the subjects.

Lastly, the style and language show no such difference as would compel us to ascribe the several poems to more than one author.

In some passages the writer addresses the faithful like a clergyman; in others, he speaks like a master of a monastery to his fellow-monks. From this circumstance, as well as from his acquaintance with, and his frequent reference to the Bible, we may infer that the author was a priest, most probably an abbot or a prior. As such he occupied a seat in parliament, and voted with the Commons. This makes us understand his rather detailed knowledge of the proceedings in parliament, and his lively interest in the cause of the Commons. Some of the occurrences he hints at he might know from hearsay; but as he refers to pretty insignificant incidents which took place on the remotest frontiers, and as he sometimes directly mentions parliament, there is no doubt that he was present at its sessions.

By his political persuasion, the author belongs to the south or the south-midland. Whereas in the north, at that time, the influence of the nobility prevails, the south is distinguished by that loyalty to the sovereign, and by that enthusiasm for the rights of the Commons, which are also characteristic of our poet. The few dialectical relics which occur in the poems, render it probable that the writer lived in

the western or in the south-western midland. A.S. a generally appears in o; twice it is preserved as a: hame (: shame, name, fame) II 23, sare (: bare, spare) X 39. French u rhymes with y, the i-umlaut of A.S. u, and with i of A.S. or of French origin: dure: hire, sire, fire IX 71; ruyde: byde, chyde hyde XXI 25; refuyse: wyse mysse I 100; myze: bodylye VI 70; askuse: acyse IV 81; use: despise V 33; refysed, used: derysed, despysed XV 149; use: service, anyse, wyse V 42; used, refused: anysed, is it XX 123; use: augse, despise, wise XXII 66; refuse : syst, unwyse, despise, XXIV 283; destruyd; aspyed, tryed, gyed XII 68; struyze: dryze, maystry, dedely XXIV 144. In the present tense, the verbal ending of the 2nd pers. is s in has (: gras, chas, plas) XVII 146, saues (: craues, knaues) XXI 152 wendys (: frendys, fendys, schendys) XXIV 97; st in gost (: ost, cost, most) XXIII 81. The 3rd pers. ends in s: ges, sles (: pes) III 14, 22, etc., twice in the get, slet (: debe, brebe) XXIV 335, 337. As a rule, the plur, has no ending; five times it has n: bene (: wene, inf.) IV 145; gon (: bon, fon, on) XV 37 (: bon, ston, won), XV 51; sayn (: agayn, playn, sayn) XX 1; don (: shon, bone, wone) XX 142; three times s: preus (: theues, myscheues, greues) I 125: releues (: preues, myscheues, greues) III 103; countes (: amountes) IV 235. The n of the inf. is only preserved in the following monosyllables: tan (: man) VIII 81; sayn (agayn, pleyn) XX 5; gon (: bon mon, non) XXIII 116. The strong p. pa. appears with or without n: ton (man, bygan, ran) XXIV 227 sworn, born, lorn (: morn) VIII 12, 13, 15; go (: mo, so slo) III 119; forlore (: restore, store) XVII 88, etc. The plur. of the pers. pron. of the 3rd p. is he (the, me, fle) XVII 54, and pag (: may, assay, clay) XV 59. Most of the poems are in 8-line stanzas, abab, abab or bebe, Nos. X and XVI are in 14-line stanzas, abab, abab, ee didd c. Assonances are allowed, and rhymes of singulars and plurals or infinitives, final n and s being disregarded.

The poems contain allusions to parliamentary transactions and to other affairs, by means of which we are able to fix their dates.

In the parliament of the first year of Henry IV., the Commons requested that everywhere the ablest and most esteemed men should be made justices of the peace, as it had been ordered in the time of Edward III. They complained that many judges got their offices by bribes, and instead of making peace, nourished discord, and used oppression (Rolls of Parliament, p. 444, 151). They required the judges to be sworn not to accept presents or gifts of any kind from

anybody, but to content themselves with their fees (R. P., p. 433, 99). Everybody accused of, or imprisoned for, treachery or other offences, should be allowed to apologize, as it was prescribed by the old laws (R. P., p. 442, 144).

The same wrongs as the Commons wished to be redressed are hinted at in the first of the present pieces. The poet warns his hearers against tyranny, secret hate, and self-interest (1. 3). The admonition to make unity where discord prevailed (l. 13), and to make peace between quarrelling parties (l. 161), is no doubt aimed at the justices of the peace, who were accused of stirring hostilities among the people. Moreover, the author inveighs against such judges as take bribes and sell the laws (Il. 68, 156), and he blames those who condemn a man without hearing his apology (l. 153 sq.). L. 81 is, I think, an allusion to the pestilence which haunted the western and the northern parts of the country in 1399. In the same parliament, the Commons asked the king to provide against that evil, which still prevailed in the northern districts (R. P., p. 434). The Il. 73 et suy, seem to refer to a conspiracy against Henry IV. About Christmas 1399, six noblemen formed a plot against the life of the King; but their treacherous project being discovered, the conjurors and their followers were put to death, and their quarters carried about in the streets of London, as an example to rebels.

The parliament in the first year of Henry IV. closed on November 19; but since the plot against the King was not detected before Christmas, and as the execution of the conspirators took place in the beginning of January, the first poem is not to be dated before January 1400.

The second piece belongs to the same year, for the third is fixed to the beginning of 1401 by the allusions which it contains to the parliamentary transactions of that year. On January 25 the Commons declared that, as they were deliberating on certain subjects, it might happen that some of them, in order to please the King and to gain his favour, would make him reports of their negotiations before they had come to a determination, and so they might fall under the displeasure of the sovereign; therefore, they asked him not to trust such tale-bearers (R. P., p. 456). At the same time, they warned Henry of the intrigues of the French, who calumniated some loyal lords, in order to bring them into disfavour with the monarch. They explained what great mischief might befall the whole realm if he listened to those slanderers (ibid.). On another occasion, they related

that some people had been imprisoned without trial, and dispossessed of their estates by chicanery. They requested that from that time forward nobody should be imprisoned without being put to the question, as was ordered in Magna Charta; and that, if anybody happened to be in prison, he should be tried immediately (R. P., p. 470). On February 21 the Commons reported to the sovereign that the inhabitants of Wales had risen in arms; in England too, especially on the frontier of Wales, tumults were excited against customs and other officials. Those uproars, they said, had been raised because the King had appointed some of his followers to be officers of the natives, which was against the old statutes. Therefore, they asked Henry to examine those old laws, and to order remedies for the suppression of that rebellion, which might hurt the prince and the whole kingdom (R. P., p. 457, 15, 16). On January 25 the Commons declared three things to be indispensable for the good administration of every kingdom, namely, sense, humanity, and riches; the King himself, as well as his counsellors, was well endowed with sense, as everybody knew; to the lords spiritual and temporal and to the chivalry God had granted humanity, a firm will, and great courage; as to riches, the monarch possessed the hearts of his subjects, which were the most precious treasure of a sovereign (R. P., p. 456). On March 15 they compared the states of a kingdom to a trinity, formed by the prince, the lords, and the Commons; as they had learned that some lords entertained quarrels against one another, they asked the monarch to reconcile them, to the benefit of the whole nation (R. P., p. 459, 32).

The three things which, as our poet says, may do great harm in a kingdom, remind us of three grievances of which the Commons complained. By the tale-bearers (l. 17 et sqq.) we are to understand those slanderers against whom the Commons warned the King. The reproach of corruptibility (l. 25 et sq.) falls upon such judges as cause guiltless persons to be imprisoned. The mention of frequent changes of governance, at last (l. 41 et sqq.) is an allusion to the appointment of new officers in Wales. The author, like the Commons, advises the settlement of those differences by fair means, and says the King should beware of lawless innovations (ll. 55–64). L. 155 puts one in mind of the request of the Commons to make unity between the quarrelling lords. Likewise, lines 113 et sqq. may be regarded as an allusion to the dissension among the noblemen, and to the frequent rebellions against the King. It was, indeed, the discord among the

English that brought much mischief on their own country. Welsh profited by the civil commotions to make insurrections; the Scots renewed their incursions into England, and wasted the northern counties (cf. l. 117 et sq.); the French intrigued at the English court, and began to trouble the garrison of Calais: so that, about that time, England was in fact everywhere threatened by enemies (cf. l. 115 et sq.). Lines 137-144 were written in favour of a statute which was made against the Lollards in 1401. Since King Henry IV. regarded the benevolence of the Church as an excellent means to secure his throne, he engaged the parliament to make a law that everybody convicted of heresy was to be delivered over, by the bishop, to the secular court, and to suffer death by fire. In the enumeration of what makes the treasury of a kingdom, the writer is again influenced by the above-quoted declaration of the Commons. We find here again the wise clergy (l. 68), the courageous chivalry (l. 69 sq.), and the advised and valiant king (l. 71 sq.).

The 4th poem, 'Lerne say wele, say litel or say no3t,' I think originated in 1404. In the Rolls of Parliament of that year we read that on February 7 the Commons asked the King to remove from the court four persons who displeased them (R. P., p. 525, 16). The next day they requested the monarch to choose honourable, virtuous, and well-principled men for his courtiers, and to make such arrangements as would please God, and promote the welfare of his subjects (ibid.). About the same time, they desired the prince to clear his household of the great number of strangers who used to live there; and they wished that good management should prevail, the costs of which might easily be covered (R. P., p. 527, 26).

In several passages of the fourth piece, the poet inveighs against those people who flatter lords and kings, and persuade them to oppress the poor, and to commit other acts of injustice (ll. 73–96, 145–152, 201–208, 219–224). We don't know exactly why the Commons desired those four persons to be dismissed; but it is most probable that they misdoubted them to be flatterers and bad counsellors to the sovereign. The favouritism which had flourished under Richard II. was apparently still fresh in memory, and excited suspicion against the courtiers of Henry IV. Lines 137–144 seem to be aimed at the confessor of the King, who was also among the persons to be expelled from the court, and whom they perhaps suspected of taking bribes or passing over the faults of the prince from cowardice. The author agrees with the Commons in laying

stress on the good influence which virtuous men may have on lords (l. 209 sq.). In the exhortation to show liberality only to worthy people, and not to support the importunate (ll. 169-176), we may see a hint at the sustenance of the numerous strangers at the court of the monarch.

The next three pieces may be supposed to fall between 1404 and 1408.

No. VIII aims at the worldly and dissolute life of the clergy. The same subject was discussed in the parliament of the seventh and eighth of Henry IV. In one session, the Commons reported that many curates were not resident in their dioceses, but sojourned elsewhere, spoiling and squandering away the property of the Church, neglecting the divine service, and disregarding their own and their parishioners' eternal welfare; they left their cures, in order that they should not be obliged to support their poor and indigent parishioners, setting an ignominious example to every Christian man (R. P., p. 594, 114). Another time, they complained that vicars wrongly exacted tithes, and prosecuted poor labourers who could not pay (R. P., p. 591, 105).

All those trespasses are resented by our author. He rebukes those clergymen who take tithes, but will not teach the people (l. 20); who resign themselves to worldly pleasures (l. 25), and deprive their own souls and those of others of the heavenly bliss (ll. 39, 47). He thinks it better to help poor people with small means, than wrongly to extort large sums from them, and to neglect the care of the souls (ll. 65–72).

IX. The piece 'With God of loue and pes 3e trete' is to be dated 1410, because it contains allusions to the parliament of that year. On March 15 the Commons asked the King to adjourn the sessions till after Easter, since it was desirable that every Christian man should spend that holy time at home, attending the divine service, and doing penance for his sins. In the same parliament, they complained of several cheats which were committed in certain parts of the country. They reported that "Gali-halfpens" were circulating, a bad coin, which they wished to be declared forfeit because it only served to derogate from the King's crown, and to practise gross deceptions on the common people (R. P., p. 644, 68). Further, they reminded the monarch of a law passed in the seventh of Henry IV., according to which the cloth that was made in the western districts of England was to have a certain length and width. There were,

however, people who made it much smaller, and who, to conceal the deceit, folded it so skilfully, that it seemed to have the due size, and that the controlling officers put the seal to the bales without unpacking them (R. P., p. 644, 69). Moreover, the Commons requested that no officer or judge or minister of the King should be allowed to accept presents or bribes from anybody. If any persons happened to be in prison without having been tried, they should be permitted to apologize (R. P., p. 626, 28, 29). An oath should be administered to the judges, openly to do full justice to everybody, without delay, and without regard to contrary orders or charges of anybody (R. P., p. 623, 14). The common laws, statutes, and good institutions made in former times and not repealed, should be kept, and executed according to right and reason, by the judges, officers, and ministers. without encroachments or impediments of any kind (R. P., p. 624. 18). The Commons also repeated their former complaint of the non-residence and other abuses of the clergy. They said that many ministers of the Church, who ought to be resident and to keep hospitality in their dioceses, aiding and supporting all their poor parishioners, were in offices at the court of the King, and in the houses of certain lords; others lived in London, Oxford, Canterbury, or in abbeys and priories, spending little or nothing for good purposes, never caring about their cures nor paying the least attention to their clerical duties (R. P., p. 645, 70). At last, they asked the sovereign to procure remedies against the frequent rebellions and troubles in the kingdom (R. P., p. 624, 17).

The connection of the ninth poem with the above-quoted parliamentary transactions is evident. The piece must have been composed about Easter 1410. From the exhortation to do penance (l. 9), it follows that the holy time mentioned in the first line is Easter, the time of shrift and penance. The author opposes to the parliamentary affairs the negotiations of peace with God, and invites the faithful to clear themselves of their sins. He teaches them himself how to prepare for the sacrament, and how to behave after they have received it. At the same time, he cannot help resenting several disorders identical with, or similar to, those which were talked of in parliament. He reproves people who debase and adulterate the current coin (l. 49), and those who measure with a false ell (l. 52); he warns judges of passing unjust sentences, either for meed or from fear of lords, and he calls on them to let law have its course (ll. 57-72); at last, he charges the clergy with the same

abuses of which the Commons accused them: non-residence, short-comings, and regardlessness of the poor (ll. 153-176). The admonition of the soldiers to beware of covetousness and cruelty (l. 140) in quenching rebellions, may have been occasioned by the petition of the Commons to remedy the frequent tumults in the kingdom. The soldiers seem to have used violent measures in suppressing uproars. In the same parliament, the Commons even complained of the severity and oppression which the King's officers, when gathering contributions, used against peaceful subjects (R. P., p. 624, 16); still less indulgence and more covetousness was of course to be expected of soldiers fighting rebels.

The next two poems X, XI must have been written, respectively, in 1411 and at Easter 1412.

With No. XII we enter the reign of King Henry V. Henry IV. died on March 20, 1413, and his son was crowned three weeks afterwards, a fortnight before Easter. By the holy time of bliss and joy (l. 4) we are then to understand Easter 1413, for this piece seems to have been written under the impression of the coronation ceremonies, and besides, the poet refers to some incidents which took place about that time. Soon after Henry V.'s accession to the throne, a conspiracy was detected, which threatened to endanger the crown recently placed on the head of the young prince. The leader of the conjurors was one John Wightlock, an ancient groom and yeoman of Richard II., who, with several accomplices, already in the reign of Henry IV., excited tumults in England by spreading rumours that the deposed King Richard was still alive, and would come before long to drive away the usurper. The conspirators entertained a secret correspondence with the King of Scotland, and with the Duke of Albany, who kept in his house one Thomas Ward of Trumpington, a fellow who bore some resemblance to King Richard, and who was, therefore, declared to be the dethroned prince. Wightlock was imprisoned in the Tower and sentenced to death, but he made his escape by the help of a warden. (Goodwin, History of the Reign of Henry V. London, 1704, p. 3.)

The conspirators who spread the rumours about Richard II., and who made an attempt on the life of Henry V., are the fools whose wicked plans are to be disconcerted (l. 7). As the poet says (l. 51), no harm had yet been done, the offence having been restricted to those malicious reports, therefore the conspirators were not prosecuted, except Wightlock, whose condemnation may be alluded to in

11. 90-95. Lines 97 et sqq. are most probably aimed at the Duke of Albany, who had harboured the individual bearing a resemblance to Richard II. The enemies who would rush in from all sides in case of civil wars (ll. 33-40) are the Scots,—whose King had taken a lively interest in nourishing a tumult in England,—and the French. against whom at that time a little prelude was made to the great war, which afterwards broke out between the two nations. Soon after the death of Henry IV., several hostilities took place by sea and by land, between the French and the English garrison of Calais and other towns. This circumstance induces the author to mention the English territories beyond the sea, on the possession of which he sets such great value (l. 25).—Lines 113-120 apparently refer to the frequent insurrections under the preceding kings.—The allusion to Flanders (1.85) is founded upon the following historical event. In the reign of Charles VI. of France, Lewis Duke of Orleans, and John Duke of Burgundy and Flanders, the brother and the cousingerman of the King, quarrelled about the leading part in the administration of the kingdom. After long contentions, they resolved at last upon making peace, and swore a solemn oath to keep an eternal friendship. But soon after the faithless Duke of Burgundy caused his rival to be murdered in the streets of Paris (1407). consequence of that bloody deed was that his enemies desolated his country; and as he openly boasted of his crime, he brought general contempt upon himself.

XIII. In the poem 'Dede is worchyng' two parts are to be discerned, the first of which, ending at l. 104, contains references to several domestic affairs which were talked of in the parliament of Leicester, 1414. The Archbishop of Winchester, the King's uncle and Chancellor of England, choosing for his theme the words "Posuit cor suum ad leges investigandas," declared that three reasons had induced the King to summon the parliament: (1) Because he wished the laws of God and of the Church to be strictly observed. (2) As recently many persons had been robbed, even in violation of their safeconduct, arrangements should be made for a better observation of peace. (3) If it proved necessary, new laws should be enacted to the benefit and profit of the whole nation, especially against rebels, murderers, and other malefactors. - About the assassins mentioned by the Chancellor we learn particulars from the reports of the Commons in the same parliament. They complained of a great many murders, treasons, and robberies, committed by sea and land, and they even POEMS (OXF.).

accused subjects of the King of assisting and sheltering the thieves (R. P., p. 22, 23). Further, they said that lately many people had been waylaid by the inhabitants of the franchises of Tyndale, Riddesdale, and Eschamshire bordering on Scotland, and that some fellows of those regions housed Scots, and incited them to surprise people, to take their money, and to drive away their cattle. Moreover, they reported that the Viscount of Riddesdale, either from want of energy or from want of good-will, refused to apply the laws against those offenders (R. P., p. 21, 19).—Lastly they presented a petition, "that fro this tyme foreward, by compleynte of the commons of eny myschief axkynge remedie by mouthe of their Speaker for the Commons other ellys by Petition writen, that ther never be no Lawe made theruppon, and engrosed as Statut and Lawe, nother by addicions nother by diminucions by no manere of terme ne termes, the whiche that sholde chaunge the sentence and the entente axked by the Speker mouthe or the Petition biforesaid yeven up yn writing by the maner forsaid, withoute assent of the aforesaid Commons" (R. P., 22, 22).—The tenants of Darleton and Ragenell related that Lord Stanhope had surrounded all their fields, meadows, and pasture-grounds with armed bands, so that they had no fructure of them (R. P., p. 29).

The first four lines of the thirteenth piece remind us of the speech of the Chancellor, who also declared the principal object of that parliament to be to amend what was amiss. Our poet does not seem to approve of all the intentions of the government. Above all, he does not expect much good of making new laws (Il. 29-32). In one thing, however, he is of the same opinion as the Chancellor, viz. that great arbitrariness in the interpretation of the laws prevails, and that the existing institutions ought to be observed much better. Especially he declaims against robbers and waylayers, whom he requires to be severely punished (ll. 17-24). From the express call to protect people against those who seize their cattle, and injure their own persons (ll. 53-56) we are to conclude that the writer has in view the wrongs done to the inhabitants of Tyndale and Riddesdale. Lines 57-64, particularly the warning against taking meed (1. 62), refer to the Viscount of Riddesdale, who refused to try the guilty.—The passage promising a great blessing of God to those who stand with the "uncunning" Commons, and who don't encroach upon their rights, seems to include a reproof of the "cunning" lords who used to cheat the Commons by changing the text of their

petitions. By the complaints of the tenants (l. 43), the author evidently means the grievances of the tenants of Darleton and Ragenell.

The second part of this poem, beginning at line 105, treats of the foreign affairs of England. In the Parliament of Leicester, the Archbishop of Canterbury had already declared that the King ought to wear the crown of France by a title descending to him from Edward III., who had openly challenged his right by ambassadors, and bravely attempted to conquer by arms what he could not obtain by treaties; he asserted that Henry had the same title to that crown, and the same reasons to make war upon a refusal (Goodwin, p. 43). Moved by that speech of the Archbishop, Henry determined upon profiting by the disorders which prevailed in France during the reign of King Charles VI., in order to renew the claims of his predecessors to the throne of that country. At first, he entered into negotiations with the French court; but he made such conditions of peace as could not be supposed to gain acceptance. Therefore, he began at the same time to make preparations for war. The English ambassadors went over to Paris on Aug. 8, 1414; but they soon returned without having effected their object. In November 1414, the matter was proposed to the parliament which had been prorogued from Leicester to Westminster. The Chancellor, taking for his theme the words "Dum tempus habemus, operemur," protested that the King's endeavours not only aimed at a just and wise government in his own realm, but that he also intended to recover the lawful heritage of the English crown, which for a long time had been withheld from his predecessors; and that, considering the peace prevailing in the kingdom, he thought it his duty to carry through his purpose immediately. But to succeed in so great an enterprise, the Chancellor pretended three things to be indispensable for the King, namely, the loyal advice of his counsellors, true assistance of the gentry, and copious supplies from all his subjects.

Our poet warmly seconds the designs of the King. Several times he closely follows the declaration of the Chancellor. He derives the title of King Henry to the French throne from the conquests of Edward III., as the Archbishop had done in the parliament of Leicester (ll. 113 et sqq.). Since the treaties with the French court proved useless, he, like the Chancellor, advises that the affair shall be settled by the sword. In lines 104 and 105 he refers to the words of the Archbishop, that the peace prevailing at home induced the

King to pursue his purpose in France. To render the undertaking successful, he recommends the same things as the Chancellor had done (Il. 121 et sqq., 129-132).

Perhaps even the burden "dede" was suggested by the word "operemur" in the theme of the Archbishop.

XIV. The next piece was composed, to my thinking, in the beginning of 1418. It seems to contain some vague allusions to the fate of Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham. This lord, who had enjoyed the full favour and confidence of Henry IV., and who was esteemed as a valiant warrior by Henry V., was, for some time, the head of the Lollards. Therefore, the Archbishop of Canterbury persuaded the King to give his permission to indict Sir John. The monarch endeavoured to make Cobham withdraw his erroneous opinions, but the nobleman, who felt too secure in the favour of the sovereign, offered an obstinate resistance. At last Henry allowed him to be cited before a council in London, by which he was condemned to be burnt. But Cobham made his escape, and then two attempts upon the life of the prince. Being outlawed, he succeeded in hiding himself for three years in the western parts of the country. In 1417 he was taken and delivered over to the court of justice. King Henry being then occupied in France, the Commons required his brother, who meanwhile managed affairs in England, to order the execution of Cobham (Dec. 14). The duke complied, and accordingly Sir John was hanged some days afterwards.

Some advices of the 14th poem seem to involve a censure of the folly of a nobleman, who must have been a confidant and counsellor of the King (cf. ll. 9-12). He must have lost the favour of the prince by the tricks of his enemies (l. 10). From line 14 we may conclude that he underrated the intrigues of his adversaries, and that he trusted too much to the protection and to the benevolence of the sovereign. If the last stanza but one may be thought to refer to the attempt on the King's life, we have several circumstances which apply to Sir John Oldcastle. Even the kind of his death may be hinted at in line 45 et sq.

Besides, the reference to Church affairs (ll. 81–88) gives us another hold for fixing the date of this piece. Simony and nepotism must have luxuriated about 1418, for the University of Oxford then made a petition to the King, in which they asked, "that simony should be punished effectually; that care should be taken to prevent unworthy

persons from intruding into the episcopal or sacerdotal office; that the bishops should not appoint wicked men to be ministers to the people; that they should not hold any benefices in commendam; that they should not advance young men, their nephews and otherwise related, to have the care of souls" (Goodwin, p. 230). The same abuses are criticised by our poet: Simony (Il. 81, 92), nepotism (I. 85), and bad administration of dioceses (I. 25 et sqq.).

On usury, and on false measure and weight, the Commons complained somewhat later; but we may well imagine that the poet mentions those evils when they first began to appear, and before remedies were required. Besides, after 1414 he alludes no more to parliamentary transactions; the good government of Henry V. evidently gave him less occasion for censure. Now and then he hints to an event of public interest, but in general, the cure of souls stands in the foreground.

XVI. The 'Remembraunce of LII folyes' must have originated in 1419, because it contains references to the folly and to the assassination of John, Duke of Burgundy and Flanders. While Henry V. was successfully advancing in France, the Dauphin and the Duke of Flanders made war upon each other. At last John, moved by the representations of some friends, agreed to an interview with the Dauphin in order to form an alliance against the King of England. On that occasion, the duke was assassinated by the followers of the Dauphin (1419).—The Duke of Flanders was indeed guilty of some of the follies which, as our poet pretends, caused his fall (l. 62). He did not scruple at killing the Duke of Orleans (l. 37, cf. XII. l. 85); he even defended that deed, and openly boasted of it, and nobody durst call it a crime; even the clergy, overawed by his authority, did not venture to proceed against him (ll. 2, 65). He strove for the greatest power in France (l. 3); and instead of assisting his cousin against the King of England, he made war upon him, and so promoted the cause of a stranger (l. 33 et sq.). When he had made the French his enemies, he did not mind their arms (l. 46); he trusted the Dauphin (l. 17), and entered into negotiations with him, though some of his counsellors warned him against his falsehood (l. 19). By the glozers (l. 51) the writer means those persons who advised the prince to ally himself with the Dauphin. John of Burgundy lost not only his lordship (l. 62), but also his life; which was regarded as a punishment for the assassingtion of the Duke of Orleans (l. 63 et sqq.).

No. XVIII. Among the rest of the poems, there is only one the date of which can be fixed with some certainty, namely, 'The declaryng of religion.' From Goodwin (p. 303) we learn that in 1421 complaints were made to King Henry V. that the Benedictine monks had deviated from the rules of their first institution, and that, to reform those monks, the next year a Provincial Capitulary was made, where among other things the following articles were passed: The extravagance of the monks' equipage should be moderated, and none have the attendance of above twenty horse, under a great temporal penalty. All the monks should be uniform in the colour and fashion of their habits. Their necessities should be supplied, not in money, which none of the order ought to possess, but in provisions of things needful. No monks should have a distinct private cell to entertain any other women than their own mothers or sisters, and they should not bring even them into any other place than the room appointed for the entertainment of guests. Since the way to preserve chastity was to avoid the conversation of women, none of the monks should be at liberty to go into the cities and towns to compotations or on visits.

Some passages of the 18th poem betray the writer's acquaintance with the above decrees. Monks are warned against entertaining too intimate an intercourse with women (l. 84 et sqq.); they are to beware of drunkenness (l. 103); they are not to pick up news (l. 107); their habit is not to follow the fashion (l. 155), but the rule of order (l. 144); no monk is allowed to buy or sell anything for money (l. 138 et sqq.), nor to possess jewels or horses (l. 155).

Goodwin says that many other articles were passed, "which it would be too tedious to record." If we knew all of them, we could, perhaps, find more allusions in the present piece. Besides, it is not impossible that the author mentions certain abuses which prevailed in his own monastery, and which he thought it necessary to reform.

The poetical treatise on the sacrament of the altar was apparently intended to be an Easter poem; its exact date, however, cannot be made out.

The Petty Job, contained in the Douce MS. 322 of the Bodleian, is, like the Lessons of the Dirige, a paraphrase of the Lamentations of Job. At the head we find the remark that the Petty Job was composed by Richard of Hampole, which of course cannot mean

The Douce MS, Poems, 'Petty Job' and 'Parce michi, Domine.' xxiii

that our poem is by that monk, for it belongs neither to his time nor to his dialect. A.S. â is partly preserved, partly it has become o: mare (: are, care) 338, sare (: care, spare, fare, ware) 569, (: are, whare, fare) 472; cloth, goth, loth, wroth (: doth) 227, one (: bone, troone) 566. The verbal ending of the 3rd p. sing. is s: affrayes (: dayes, wayes) 564, and th: doth (: cloth, loth) 284. The plur. shows the same endings: payes (: dayes, wayes) 653, goth (: cloth, wroth) 279; once it has n: han (: man, can, tan) 111; the plur. of to be is are (: spare, bare) 3, (: mare, care) 340, and be (: we, se, the) 108, (: domine) 225. The inf. and the strong p. pa. appear without n, except gone (inf., : ston, John) 315, and layne (p. pa., : fayne, mayne) 28 tan (p. pa., man, can, han) 115.

Miss A. F. Parker has read the proofs with the MSS. Dr. Furnivall has added the head-lines, and a few side-notes, stops and hyphens, and has seen the sheets through the press for me.



I. Loue god, und drede. [A.D. 1400]

[Digby 102, leaf 98.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab bcbc.]

(1)

The man be war, that bereth a state, I Of counseil of double entendement, Of tyrauntrye, and preuey hate, And synguler profit by fals assent, And 3ong to 3yue Iugement. In Euenhede, Lawe 3e lede. Worche be good auisement. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Every man who holds an office. should beware of bad counsel. 4 oppression, and injustice.

¶ Drede god, and knowe thy selue, That ouer puple hast gouernaunce. Noght for the loue of ten or twelue, Brynge not a Comone in greuaunce. Make vnyte ther was distaunce. Weye o lawe in euenhede, Bytwen ffauour and vengeaunce. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Don't harm a commoner to please a few people. Compose quarrels.

Keep from favour and 16 vengeance.

(3)

¶ Eche mannys gouernours Of hous or lordshipe or cite, The puple is godes, and not zoures, Thow they be soget to 3 oure degre. Gouerne the puple in vnyte, In the comaundements that god bede, And ze wole lyue in charite. Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. POEMS (OXF.).

The people is God's, not 20 yours;

cording to his commandments.

24

B

(4)

	, ,	
Every man knows that	¶ Eche man wot, that hath wyt,	
God will call him to ac-	These worldes goodes beth not his.	
count for	Alle is godes; he oweth hit,	
	And land and see, and pyne and blis.	28
	God wole haue rekenyng, ywys,	
the least thing he	Of men and cloth, the leste shrede,	
possessed;	Thy getyng, thy holding, thy spendyng mys.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Man of his owen hath no thyng;	
	Man is goddis, and al god sent.	
	God wole haue rekenyng	
	Of ryht and wrong, how it is went.	36
for every- thing has	Man, not nys thyn, alle god lent,	
only been lent to man	And borwed thyng mot home ful nede;	
by God, and will be	And 3ut thy soule is goddis rent:	
reclaimed.	Quyte that wele in loue and drede.	4()
	(6)	
	¶ Serue god for helle drede,	
Turn away	file fro synne and al vys.	
your heart from worldly	And 3e loue god for heuen mede,	
pleasures, and give it	3yue hym thyn hert fro fleschly delys.	44
to God.	ffor worldly wys is gostly nys,	
	And fooles erande may not spede.	
	In begynnyng to be wys	
	Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	48
	(7)	
	¶ And 3e wole wyte, thus move 3e lere:	
Who likes to	What man pursueth his soule to saue,	
hear of God,	3if hym be lef of god to here,	
enables him-	He ableth hym self mercy to haue.	52
self to get mercy.	Richesse ¹ and hele maketh wylde men raue,	
[1 leaf 98b]	That to vertues take non hede.	
	Er thy soule be fendes knaue,	
	Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	56

(8)

¶ That man that wole be gouerned by wyt, ffle fro foly, and worldis delys;
Loke his charge how it is knyt,
And take counseil that is wys;
ffolwe mesure in euene syse;
Lete no falshed blome ne sede.
And lawe be kept, no folk nyl ryse.
Than seruest god in loue and drede.

Flee from worldly folly,

follow good advice.

60

If the laws be kept, people will not rebel.

(9)

¶ Whanne a fool stereth a barge,
Hym self and al the folke is shent.
There as conscience is large,
By wrath or mede the doom is went.
The bowe of goddis wrath is bent
On hem that deth not that god bede.

Fools ruin themselves and others.

On hem that deth not that god bede.

War wordes of dowble entendement,

Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

72

68

(10)

¶ Gif a kyngdom falle a chaunce
That al the rewme myght greue,
Azen that make an ordinaunce,
To kepe zow euere fro suche myscheue;
And chastise hem that matere meue:

Order remedies against mischiefs,

Make othere take ensaumple treuth to hede.
Who so is wys, his werkys preue.

and punishments for rebels.

Loue god, and 3e thar not drede.

80

88

(11)

¶ Goddis bowe of wratthe on vs was bent;
There we thenke al to lyte.
His 3erde of loue on summe is lent,
With swerd of vengeaunce he summe doth smyte. 84
The brydeH with teeth thay byte
That of god taken non hede.

some he punishes severely, others in dulgently.

God's bow was bent on

us:

Or fendys alle 30ure werkys wryte,

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(12)

Poor people revere	Why pore men don riche reuerence,	
tyrants out of fear,	Two skylles y fynde therfore:	
	To tyrauntes don hem greuaunce,	(1.1)
	To rewe and agen restore.	9.5
benevolent men from	Goode men for loue they worshipe more,	
love.	That don hem good, and help at nede;	
	ffor god seeth thurgh every bore.	ac
	Man, knowe thy self, lone god, and drede.	96
	(13)	
	¶ Eche man wot, that bereth estate,	
	Why they hit resceyue, and to what wyse.	
Worship	Worship for drede is preue hate;	
from dread is secret hatred.	Suche worship of frendes men schold refuyse.	100
	In loue and drede worshipe the wyse.	
[1 lenf 99]	Be suget to resoun in lengthe 1 and brede,	
	ffor god seeth thurgh eche mysse.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	104
	(14)	
Who sins,	¶ As long as man doth wrong,	
makes God his enemy;	He maketh god his ful foo;	
by persever- ing in sin he	The more he dwelleth theryn long,	
increases his guilt.	To his soule he encreseth woo.	108
Stop before	Er he fele het, y rede say hoo,	
you go to Hell.	Er his soule glowe as glede.	
	Haue heuene, or helle: chese of two.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	112
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	(15)	
	The man withoute charitee	
	May neuere wynne heuen blisse.	
Do as you	As thou wolde men dede for the,	
would be done by.	Do thou so liche eche man haue hisse;	116
You will have to answer for	ffor all that euere is goten mysse,	
everything ill-gotten.	Mot be rekened, a drope 3e shede.	
and Societies	Thes worldis good and thou mon kysse.	
	Man, knowe thy self, love god, and drede.	120

(16)

¶ ffalse men bye helle ful dere.

That taken with wrong, are goddis theues;

They han here heuene in this world here;

After in helle, huge myscheues.

What they byleue, here werkys preues

Arn heretikes, and out of the Crede.

Why god doth loue, why god doth greues,

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Who takes wrongfully,

124 will suffer pains in Hell.

(17)

¶ Man, synne not in ouerhope;
Thou wynnest not goddis mercie with fight;
Hit wolde brynge the in wanhope,
To wene no mercy thou hauen myght.
Alle thyng is nombred in goddis sight,
The leste tryp that euere 3e trede.
His mercy is medled with his right.
Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Don't trust too much nor too little to the mercy of God.

136

132

128

(18)

¶ Mannes conscience wil hym telle,
Riche and pore, fool and wyse,
Whether he be worthi heuene or helle
To resceyue, after his seruyce.
Eche man auyse hym, that is wys,
Pore, and prynce styf on stede,
Or vyces ouer vertues rys.
Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

Your conscience will tell you whether you are to be saved, or condemned.

144

152

140

(19)

¶ Who that take fro pore to eke with his, ffor that wrong is worthy wo;

A-nother, richer than he is,

Of the same shal serue hym so.

That 3eueth to that lize or go,

Mete or drynke, herborwe or wede,

God sendes y-now to tho

That louen god, and hym wolen drede.

Ill-gotten goods don't prosper.

Benefits done to poor men will be rewarded.

(20)

Judges ¶ He is a fool, that doth answere should hear both parties, To a man er tale be told; But after the dede deme there: and take no Lete not lawe be fauoured ne sold. 156 bribes. Suche maken fals men be bold, [leaf 99 b] And false men myghte stroye a thede. Er charitee in hert wexe cold, Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 160 (21)Men should ¶ 3if a man do a-nother mys, reconcile their quarrel-Neighbores shuld hem auyse, ling neighbours. The trespasour amende and kys, Do bothe parties euene assise. 161 Old horded hate maketh wratthe to rise, Inveterate hatred often does great And ofte gilteles blod to blede. mischief.

ffle fro fooles, and folwe wise.

II. Mede and muche thank.

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

168

4

8

12

[Digby 102, leaf 99, back.]

[11 stanzas of 8, abab bebc.]

(1)

In a forest,

In ryche array, with ryches rank, ffaire floures vnder foote,

Sauour to myn herte sank.

I sawe two buyrnes on a bank.

To here talkyng I tok hede.

That on preysede moche thank,

That other held al with mede.

(2)

One of them was poorly clad,

That on, a trauaylyng man had ben,
He was but in mene array;
the other richly.

That other clothed in gawdy gren,
Blasande bri3t, embrowdid gay.

"Loo, felow, chese y may		
To ryde on palfray or on stede.		
Shewe forth moche thonk, y the pray;		"Show forth thanks,
Loo, here y shewe sumwhat of mede."	16	I'll show meed.''
(3)		
¶ 'Syre, y see thou hast richesse;		Men will honour or
How thou hit get, whiche is thy fame,		blame you according as
In corage and prowesse,		you have got your riches
After thy dede resceyue thy name,	20	
Other in worshipe, or in shame.		by valour or by cowardice.
Men wol the deme after thy dede,		and the state of
Thy fer trauayle, or cochour at hame.		How do you get meed?
How served thou to have that mede?'	24	ger meeu:
(4)		
¶"I plese my lord at bed and bord,		"I please my
pouz y do but strype a stre,		lord at home,
And florische fayre my lordis word,		trifles only."
And fede hem forth with nay and 3ee.	28	
Whan trauaylyng men fare euele on see,		
In fight, in preson, in storme and drede,		
With moche thank than mery 3e be,		
And y wole make me mery with mede."	32	
(5)		
¶ 'fflateryng is the fendis scoles.		'By your
3 oure awen werkys preueth 3 ow nys.		flattery, you make your
3e skorne lordes, and make hem 3oure foles,		lords your fools.
To playe and lawhe at 3 oure delys.	36	
Do for a lord; and he be wys,		Wise men
Trewe trauayle shal not lese his dede.		reward faith- ful servants.
To vertuous lord al worship lys.		
The trewe seruant is worthy hys mede.'	40	
(6)		
¶ "Say, felowe, what doth the greue		
My glosyng, flateryng, play, and daunce?		
Shulde my souerayn aske the lene.		

11

Whom hym list to auaunce?

II. Meed and much Thanks.

"You get your living	Thou getest the thonke with spere and launce,	
with spear and lance,	Ther-with 1 thou might the clothe and fede;	
I'll get mine	I gloser wil stonde to my chaunce,	
by flattery. [1 leaf 100]	And mayntene my men al with mede.	48
	(7)	
By my flat-	¶ "My flateryng, glosyng, not me harmes.	
tering I get riches,	I gete loue, and moche richesse,	
while war- riors suffer	When wel-faryng men of armes	
distress.	In fight, in presoun, and distresse.	52
In your old	When thou art old and feble, y gesse,	
age you may live on	Who wole the fynde fode or wede?	
thanks,	Lete moche thonk than thy mete dresse,	
I'll make	And y wole make me mery with mede."	56
merry with	2-1-1-1 y	
	(8)	
A glozer is	¶ 'I likne a gloser, in eche weder	
like a weather-cock.		
	3e begeten hony togedere;	
	To stroy; e that cometh the drane.	60
He and tho	Me thenkeb bere wit is wane	9.7
lean faitour waste, like	To stroize the hony, and foule hit shede;	
drones, what others have	Gloser hath brought faytour lane	
gathered.	To halle and chambre, to lordes, for mede.	64
	To have chambre, to forces, for fields.	01
	(9)	
Your meau-	¶ 'Thy wikked speche come fro ferre.	
ing is worse than your	Euel thou spekest, worse dost mene.	
words. You like war	Thou woldest euere more were werre,	
	(ffor profyt and pilage thou myght glene,)	68
	Cristen blod destroyed clene,	
	And townes brent on a glede.	
	Thy conscience is ful lene;	
for your own profit's sake.	Thou noldest not come ther but for mede.	72
	(10)	
Wicked men	¶ 'In wikked lyuer no good counsayle,	
always are cowards;	Is coward of kynde nyst and day.	
	Good lyuere dar fende and assayle,	
good ones, valiant war- riors.	And hardy in dede brougt to bay.	76
A 1 0 1 0 a	And hardy in dede brouge to bay.	. 0

I wolde thou were brougt to assay At nede a wys counseil to rede. Were thou as hardy as thou art gay, 3e were wel worthy to have good mede.

80

84

(11)

Thenketh the not it doth the good, Whan thou out of thy bed dost swerue? 3e clothe 30w, and do on 30ure hod,

At tyme of day thy mete dost kerue.

Why dost thou thy seluen serue? I trowe thou do it for gret nede;

ffor hunger and cold elles myghtest thou sterue.

This preueth thou seruest al for mede.'

88 You do everything for meed.'

III. Treuth, reste, and pes. [Early in 1401]

[Digby 102, leaf 100.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

Or drede ofte my lippes y steke, ffor false reportours, that troubte mys-famed. 3ut Charitee chargeth me to speke.

bouz troupe be dred, he nys not ashamed.

Troube secheb non hernes ther los is lamed; Troube is worschiped at euery des.

In that kyngdom ther troube is blamed,

God sendes vengeaunce to make troube have pes. 8

(2)

¶ Troube is messager to ryst,

And ryst is counseille to Iustice;

Iustice in goddis stede is dyat.

Do euene lawe 1 to footh and wyse.

Set mesure in euene assise,

The riste weye as lawe ges.

And lawe be kept, folk nyl not ryse.

That kyngdom shal have reste and pes.

Do everybody

Truth is often concealed by

false reports,

but it always appears

again.

12 [1 leaf 100 b]

keep the laws.

(3)

A king should not believe tale-	¶ 3if suche a tale-tellere were, To a kyng apayre a mannys name,	
bearers, but hear both	The kyng shulde bobe partyes here,	
parties, and punish ca-	And punysche be fals for defame.	20
lumniators.	pan fals men wolde ases for blame;	
	ffor falshed, body and soule it sles.	
	ffalshed endes ay in shame;	
	And troupe, in worsehipe and in pes.	24
	cronge, car in each appear	
	(4)	
If the laws are violated,	¶ Whanne lawe is put fro ri3t assise,	
the com-	And domes man made by mede,	
	ffor fawte of lawe 3if comouns rise,	
and waste	pan is a kyngdom most in drede.	28
the realing	ffor whanne vengeaunce a comouns lede,	
	þei do gret harm er þey asses.	
	There no man oper dop mysbede,	
	That kyngdom shal haue reste and pes.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Whan craft rise agens craft,	
They go to	In burgh, toun, or citee,	
fight the lords.	bey go to lordes whan lawe is laft,	
	Whoche party may strengere be.	36
But wise men	But wyse men be sonere se	
provide against such	By witles wille pey gedre pres,	
revolts.	Or lordis medle in foly degre,	
	Let lawe haue cours in reste and pes.	4()
	(6)	
	¶ 3it bere is be bridde distaunce	
	Brynget a kyngdom in moche noyze:	
Frequent	Ofte chaunge of gouernaunce	
change of government	Of all degre, lowe and hyze.	44
is also a damage for	A kyng may not al aspie.	
a kingdom.	Summe telle hym sop, summe telle hym les.	
	be whete fro be chaf 3e try3e,	
	So mowe 3e leue in reste and pes.	48

(7)

¶ I speke not in specyale
Of oo kyngdom the lawe to telle;
I speke hool in generale
In eche kyngdom the lawe to telle.
Also is writen in þe gospelle
A word þat god hym-seluen ches:
Raþere þan fizte, a man go selle
On of his cloþes, and bige hym pes.

God says,
"Rather than
fight sell your
clothes to
buy peace."

56

(8)

¶ A worbi kny3t wol worchip wynne;
He wil not 3elde hym bou3 me bret,
But rabere as Malice dob begynne,
Quenche hit at be firste het.
ffor, and 3e lete it growe gret,
Hit brenneb breme as fyre in gres.
Laweles nouellerye loke 3e lete,
So mowe 3e lyue in reste and pes.

A worthy man will stiffe malice in its birth.

64

60

(9)

¶ Old speche is spoken 30re:
What is a kyngdom tresory?
Bestayle, corn stuffed in store,
Riche comouns, and wyse clergy;
Marchaundes, squyers, chiualry
That wol be redy at a res,
And cheualrous kyng in wittes hy3e,
To lede in were, and gouerne in pes.

There is an old saying:

68 Rich commoners, a wise clergy, valiant knights, and a wise and chivalrous king form the treasury of a

state.

(10)

¶ Among philosofres wyse,
In here bokes, men writen fynde
pat synne is cause of cowardyse;
Wel lyuyng man, hardy of kynde;
Wikked lyuere, graceles blynde;
He dredep dep, pe laste mes.
pe good lyuere hap god in mynde;
pat mannys counseil makep pes.

According to philosophers, good men are brave, [leaf 101] wicked ones cowards.

(11)

A good king will be led by wise counsellors.	What kyng that wol haue good name, He wol be lad by wys counsayle pat loue worschip, and dreden shame, And boldely dar fende and assayle. pere wit is, corage may not fayle, ffor wysdom neuere worschip les. Corage in querell dop batayle, And ende of batayle bygynnep pes.	8
	(12)	
Want of wit makes long counsel.	¶ Defaute of wit makeb long counsayle; for witteles wordes in ydel spoken, be more cost, be lesse auayle;	
	ffor fawte of wyt, purpos broken. In euyl soule no grace is stoken,	9:
[nota]	ffor wikked soule is graceles.	
Good men's counsel makes peace.	In good lyuere goddis wille is loken, pat mannys counsell makep pes.	96
	(13)	
The public welfare will show whether a parliament is wise.	¶ To wete 3 if parlement be wys, pe comoun profit wel it preues. A kyngdom in comouns lys,	
The commons make the kingdom.	Alle profytes, and alle myscheues. Lordis wet neuere what comouns greues Til here rentis bigynne to ses.	100
	pere lordis ere, pore comons releues, And mayntene hem in werre and pes.	104
	Till may mone hell in welle time pes.	104
	(14)	
Make God your friend,	Make god 3oure ful frend; Do pe comaundement pat he bede.	
	pous all be world agen sow wend,	
then you need not fear your enemies,	Be god 3 oure frend, 3e that not drede: ffor pere as god his frendis lede, He sauep hem bope on lond and sees.	108
	Who so figteh, god dob be dede,	
for he gives victory.	ffor god is victorie and pes.	112

(15)

What kyngdom werrep hym-self wip-ynne, Distroyep hym-self, and no mo. Wip-oute here enemys bygynne

On eche a syde assayle hem so. pe comouns, pey wil robbe and slo, Make fyere, and kyndel stres.

Whan ryches and manhode is wastede and go, pan drede dryuep to trete pes.

(16)

¶ The world is like a fals lemman, ffayre semblaunt, and moche gyle.

Wipouten heire dyep no man: God is chief lord of toun and pyle.

God is chief ford of toun and pyle.

God make mony heire in a whyle,
ffor god ressayue eche reles;

God kan breke hegge and style,
And make an hey wey to pes.

(17)

¶ God made lordis gouernoures
To gouerne puple in vnyte.

pe puple, ne ryches, nys not 3oures:
Al is goddis, and so be 3e.
Eche day 3e may 3oure myrrour se.
Eche man after oper deses;

3 oure auncetres arn gon, after shal 3e, To endeles werre, or endeless pes.

(18)

¶ Eche kyng is sworn to gouernaunce
To gouerne goddis puple in rizt.
Eche kyng bereþ swerd ¹ of goddis vengeaunce
To felle goddis foon in fizt.
And so doþ euerons honest knyzt
That bereþ þe ordre as it wes;
The plough, þe chirche, to mayntene ryzt,
Are goddis champyons, to kepe þe pes.

Civil wars destroy a kingdom.

The enemies will waste it and kill the commons.

120

128

124 God is the chief lord of everything.

Lords are

people.

2 God is the liege-lord of

govern the

136

Every king is sworn to govern the people justly, [1 leaf 101 b] and to fight the enemies

140 and to fight the enemies of God; and so is every honest knight.

(10)

	(19)	
The world is	The world is like a chery fayre,	
like a cherry fair.	Ofte chaungep all his pynges.	
1	Riche, pore, foul, and fayre,	
	Popes, prelates and lordynges,	148
All men are mortal.	Alle are dedly, and so ben kynges;	
Settle your	Or dep lede 30w in his les,	
affairs before death sur-	Arraye by tyme 30ure rekenynges,	
prise you.	And trete wip god to gete 30w pes.	152
	(20)	
	What bryngeb a kyngdom al aboue?	
Wise counsel	Wys counseil, and good governaunce;	
	Eche lord wil other loue,	
make a king- dom thrive.	And rule wel labourrers sustynaunce.	156
	God makeb for his frendis no destaunce,	
	ffor god kan skatre þe grete pres.	
God helps his	God for his frendis map ordynaunce,	
friends.	And gouernep hem in werre and pes.	160
	(21)	
	Good lyf is cause of good name;	
	Good name is worthi to have reveraunce.	

Synne is cause of greuaunce.

Eche kyngdom hongeb in goddis balaunce; Wip hym pat holdeb, wip hym pat fles.

3e haue fre wille; chese 3oure chaunce, To have wip god, werre or pes.

IV. Perne say wele, say litel, or say nost.

[Digby 102, leaf 101, back.] [31 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

s be see dob ebbe and flowe, So fareb be world hyder and bedere. Agen be wynd they sayle and rowe To gadre worldys gooddis to-gedere.

Who strives only for worldly goods,

Every kingdom is in God's hand.

164

At pe last it gop, y wot not whyder,		
As ende of web out of slay.		
And hem-self stoden so slydere,		stands on a
How it is wip hym, y kan not say.	8	ground.
(2)		
¶ Sum man dar not be pef for drede;		Some people
His troupe is vice, and no vertue.		dare not show their
In heuene he nys not worbi mede,		wickedness openly from fear;
pat clopes troupe in falsed hewe.	2	icai,
Maugre his teep he is trewe;		
Stoken in presoun as best fro stray,		
Here wikked wille growe newe;		but their ill-
bey thenke more ban bey say.	6	will always betrays them.
(3)		
¶ Men may not staunche a comoun noys,		Everybody is
Nober for loue ne for awe.		judged by the
After men lyue is comoun voys,		common
In wrongwys dede, or ry3t lawe.	20	voice according to his conduct.
Who dob hem pyne, who dob hem pawe,		conduct.
Eche on telle oper, child and may.		
The that to vertues drawe,		
Hem thar not recche what [men] say.	24	
(4)		
¶ Tak fro pi foo, and zeue pi frende;		Don't assist
Tak not fro thy frend, to zeue pi foo:		your enemies, but help your
by frend wole holde be vnhende;		friends.
	28	
Man, be war er bou do so;		
To greue the he wol assay;		[leaf 102]
When byn enemys wexen mo,		
Litil worchipe of be say.	32	
(5)		
¶ Oo prouerbe loke 3e preue,		
3e pat wole to resoun bende:		
Look what ney3ebore most may greue;		Make your
	36	neighbours your friend,
¹ MS, bu, As the MS, has "thou," 4/116, 8/46, above,	I	
print ph 'pou.' In my first-edited text of some Saints' Liv (Philolog. Soc. 1862) I printed it as the Northern 'ic' inste of the Southern 'ich' as I ought to have done. Dr. R. Mor	res	
told me of the mistake,—F. J. F.		

(9)

¶ A lord of hym-self hap no wyt,

He knowep wele, but no wo;

Of pore men he mot haue hit,

Knowelechyng of frend and fo.

	He is wys, that can do so, And wel twynnen hem o tway.		He is wise, who knows his friends
	In sykernes may he go,		from his enemies.
	And recche neuere what men say.	72	
	(10)		
1	Gloseres maken mony lesynges—		Glozers tell lies to lords
	Al to sone men hem leue ¹ —		and kings.
3	ope to lordys and to kynges,		
	pat bope partye ofte greue.2	76	
	Wolde lordis seche repreue,		
	Glosers shuld not go so gay,		
	Ne not so hardy for to meue		
	Suche wordes as they say.	80	
	(11)		
Ţ	Thou; prestes prechyng hem avyse,		Lords ought to listen to
	Or mynstrallis synge in song now,		the warnings of minstrels
1	glosere wole a lord askuse:		and priests, and make
	Sire, bey synge or preche of gow.	84	glozers an- swer for their
	pe lord vnderstondes not how		words.
	pe fals[e] glosere hym bitray;		
	Wolde he make po wordis avowe,		
	He wolde auyse hym eft to say.	88	
	(12)		
	Many can stomble at a stre;		
	bey nyl not snapere at a style,		
1	nd graunte purpos nay and 3ee,		
	bous his boust be bens a myle.	92	
	Whan falsed lawheb, he forgeb gyle;		
	Half in malice is his play.		
	Wip wysdom who so voydep that wyle,		Mind the tricks of
	He is ¹ wys, aH folk wole say.	96	flatterers. [1 leaf 102 b]
	(13)		2
	Thou; men in erpe troupe hyde,		Truth can never be hid,
	On halle roof he wole be sayn.		
[n botme of see he nyl not byde,		
	But shewe in market, on the playn.	100	
	¹ MS. leues ² MS. greues		
	POEMS (OXF.).	C	

18	IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Noth	ing.
	And bous troupe a while be slayn,	
	And doluen depe vnder clay,	
it always appears	3ut he wole ryse to lyue agayn,	104
again.	And al the sothe he wole say.	104
,	(14)	
Many men	¶ Many callen conscience fleschly willis,	
don't follow reason, but their fleshly	And nelen non opere counseil craue.	
will.	But soule of reson is gostly skillis,	
	pat conscience shal hem deme, or saue.	108
	ffleschely wille is fendes knaue,	
	Out of reson, out of stray.	
	As they disserue, pey shal haue,	
	ffor so dop be gospel say.	112
	(15)	
Falsehood would bind	I ffalshed wolde troupes tunge teyze	
the tongue of Truth.	ffor trewe wordis pat he hap spoken;	
But God sends Venge-	God biddeb vengeaunce hize,	
ance to her help.	And helpe troupe be wel wroken.	116
	ffor troupe lippes ar faste stoken,	
	And false mede hap be kay.	
	Whan vengeaunce hap look broken,	
	pan troupe shal al pe sop say.	120
	(16)	
Now-a-days holidays are	¶ Sumtyme men halwed the holyday;	
turned to gluttony;	Now holiday is turned to glotonye.	
	Sumtyme men vsed honest play;	* 5 .
honesty, to villany;	And now it is turned to vilonye;	124
love, to lechery.	And paramour is turned to lecherye,—	
	Sumtyme was loue of good fay,—	
	And shameles haunted so comounly,	7.00
	Vnneþe þey recche what men say.	128
	(17)	
Some men sow their	¶ Summe men sowe here seed in skornes,	
seed on stones;	Ofte on opere mennys londes;	
others, among	Summe on stones, summe on thornes,	
thorns.	Summe on hize way, summe on sondes.	132

He pat wel vnderstondes,

Amende while he mende may,

Make hym clene, and wasche his hondes,

And recche neuere what men say.

Amend while you may.

And recche neuere what men say.

(18)

¶ Thou; holy chirche shulde fawtes mende,
Summe put hem of for mede;
And summe wip maystrize hem defende,
That holy chirche stant of hem drede.

po pat recchelesly sowe here sede,
Here lond of vertues ligge ful lay.

pe holy chirche pe corn shuld wede;
ffor cowardis, pey dar not say.

and the

church, from

cowardice, does not intervene.

144

Some people get rid of

their sins

others even defend them,

(19)

¶ Gloseres that wip lordis bene,

pey thryue faste pouz pey come late,

ffor pey wole a lord to wene

pat he is byloued ther men hym hate,

And wip his frendis make debate,

Of pore puple pyke here pray.

Of all degre, of eche astate,

After pey lyue, all folk wole say.

Glozers make a lord believe that he is liked by his enemies,

148 and disliked by his friends,

and persuade him to deprive poor people of their property.

(20)

¶ ffro goddis sy3t, who may stele
Word or werk, be lest bou3t?

pe comoun voys nyl not hele,
But loue, or hate, as werk is wrou3t;
ffor sobnes neuere hernes sou3t.
Who secheb wel, he may assay.
The good[e] lyuere neuere rou3t
Of his werkis what men say.

Nobody can conceal his intentions;

the public voice will 156 [leaf 103] praise, or condemn him, according to his works.

160

(21)

¶ Of all degre, of eche astate,
After desert be name hab prys.
bat lord his owen worship dob hate,
bat 3eueb anober his offys—

A lord spoils his own good name if he gets his work done by another.

20	IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.	
	ffor in a tate grace lys—	
	And wilfully wast it a-way.	
	Who is fool, who is wys,	
	After pey lyue, alle folk wole say.	168
	(22)	
Give nothing	¶ A glosere is gredy ay to craue.	
to glozers though they	3eue hym no thyng, pour he bede.	
crave,	A lord pat wole his worschip saue,	
	Lerne not at a glosere to don his dede.	172
but help poor	3eue to vertuous men þat haue nede,	
men who pray for you.	pat to god wole for be pray:	
	be pore mannys erande, god dob spede.	
	God wil not here what glosere wole say.	176
	(23)	
Nota.	¶ Alle þe þouztes ben but wast	
110ta.	Wipoute contemplacioun.	
	ffro heritage of heuene is born o hast	
	Shrifte wipoute contricioun.	180
Works with-	And werkys wipoute discrecioun,	200
out discretion don't please	pat sifte pleseb not god to pay,	
God, nor do pray- ers without	Ne preyer wipoute deuocioun:	
devotion.	God nyl not here what pey say.	184
	(24)	
Formerly, if	¶ Sum-tyme, and a worschip felle	
a lord gained military	To a lord, in batayle, by goddis grace,	
glory, he would refuse the flatteries	3if a glosere wolde telle	
of glozers.	Among folk, byfore his face,	188
	pe lord wolde bidde hym voyde pe place.	
	bou corayest ffauel, and stelest his hay.	
	Of alle degre, of eche astate,	
	After pey lyue, alle folk wole say.	192
	(25)	
A general	¶ A cheuenteyn may fy3te o day,	
may win to-	pe victorye wip hym stande;	
and lose	ffor synne god mon tak it away,	
for his sins.	And put his swerd in enemys hande.	196

Vertues make free, vices make bonde.

To-day is quyk, to-morwe is fay.

pat knew hym-self, he wolde wonde

Any good of him self wolde say.

200

(26)

¶ What a glosere here or see,
pou; it shulde to shame falle,
He knowep in chambre preuytee,
Tellep his felow in pe halle;
And felow to felow, tyl pey kn

Glozers divulge their lords' secrets all over the country.

And felow to felow, tyl pey knowe alle, ffro toun to toun, in all contray.

The glosere pe comoun voyce hit calle,

ffor non shulde knowe who first dede say.

208

204

(27)

¶ A good man dop a lord gret ese,
pat is a trewe officere,
pat wel can serue a lord to plese,

A true officer does not pass beyond the bounds of his power.

Passe not be boundes of his powere.

In preceyte vnwetand he may come nere.

Be handles, and stele no pyng away;

Be blynd of ey3e, and deef of here; Be dombe of mouth, and no pyng say.

216

212

(28)

¶ I wolde suche a statute were,
And per-vpon set a payne,
What soget ¹ wolde make his souereyn swere
pat he tolde in counseil layne.

be a statute against such people as make their lord fail of his word.

[1 leaf 103 b]

There should

Oft glosere makep lordis fayne,
Passe pe boundes of here play.
Al pat troupe hap herd and sayne,
All tymes nys not sop to say.

224

(29)

¶ When al pe world is purgh sou; t, In his best tyme is worst to trest. pis world is a fayre nou; t, A fals lemman, pat chaunge lest; The world is fickle and not to be trusted.

Your end is vain regret.	His last ende is had-y-wist, When dep hap by lyues kay. "Litel while he mon be myst," So be executours wol say.	232
	(30)	
While your executors reckon your riches and make merry, the devils	¶ They rekene his richesse what it amountes, Ete and drynke, synge 'hay 30l hayl,' þe while þe fendis his synnes countes,	
count your sins, and lead you to eternal pains.	And bryng to hym be countertayl; Wib hard paynes hym assaile. Wib berkande fendis brougt to bay, What helpeb his riches or wys counsaile?	236
	Hym self his owen tale shal say.	240
	¶ God made oo lawe for eche astate, Riche and pore in al degre: Do no wrong ne [no] debate,	
Do as you would be done by.	But as pou wolde men dede by pe. ffor god hym self, pis wrot he, Betok to Moyses in his lay. Be goddis childre in charyte,	244
	As god dop in the gospeH say.	248

V. delpt & delille.

[Digby 102, leaf 103, back.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, bebc.]

(1)

4

8

Beware of bad counsel,

And make be goode men to shidre.

Rizt as hay, bey mon widre;

As blades of gres, his seed dob spille.

Gostly blynd gob, and not neuere whidre, bat leueb wit, and worchib by wille.

(2)

¶ Who so wist, what tresoure

He hap pat worchep by wit;

pe fader of heuene is gouernoure,

pe holigost, pe sone wip hit.

In oo godhede alle pre are knyt,

Non departe fro oper nylle;

In eche mannys herte, alle pre pey syt,

pat makep wit lord aboue his wille.

Who works with wisdom, harbours God within him.

12

16

(3)

Who so wyste what wille harmes,
pat willefully fro wyt wendes;
ffro pe fader of heuene his soule he charmes,
ffro grace of pe holygost hym blendes,
ffro angels pere, soget to fendes,
pat nyl not mende, but ay don ylle.
Gostely and bodily hym self he shendes,
pat leuep wyt, and worchep by wille.

20

Who follows his will, spoils him-self.

(4)

¶ In kyngdom, what makep debate,
Riche and pore both anoy3ed?

3ong counseil, and preuey hate,
And syngulere profit ys aspi3ed,
Hi3e and lowe men aby3ed;
Echon wayte oper for to kille.

pat kyngdom mot nede be stri3ed,
That leuep wit, and worchep by wille.

Bad counsel, secret hate, and private interest

destroy a kingdom.

(5)

That leueb troube, and falshed vse,
And 'lyue not after goddis sawe,
Suche folk god dob despuse,
Rebell and ryse agen his lawe.
be puple that stondes of god non awe,
But robbe and reue, coffres to fylle:
be swerd of vengeaunce on hem is drawe,
bat leueb wit, and worcheb by wille.

Who uses falsehood,
[1 leaf 104]
brings the anger of God upon him.

40

(6)

	(0)	
	That ouer puple han gouernaunce,	
	Loke how goddis lawe 3e vse;	
Look whom	Whom 3e refuse, and whiche auaunce,	
you advance, and whom	ffor goddis loue, or 30ure owen seruyce,	4
you refuse.	Whiche is be charge 30w auyse.	
	Let eche man serue his charge in skylle,	
	And 3oure werkis preue 3ow wyse.	
	Let wit be lord aboue thy wylle.	48
	(7)	
Be not too	¶ Be not to crowele in by wele,	
proud in your happi-	bou nost how sone bou myst haue lesse.	
ness;	Be not to sykere of byne hele,	
	bou not how sone falle in sykenesse.	5
death may	Deb claymeb eche man for hesse,	
suddenly surprise you.	And sodeyn, deb no dayes selle.	
	Sib no man is in sykernesse,	
	Be redy euere at goddis wille.	5
	·	
	(8)	
	¶ And on by strengbe be not to bold,	
Don't scorn	Ne skorne no pore, ne feble of elde.	
poor and old people:	ffor lyue longe 3e mon be old,	
you may yourself	In feblenes to hoke and helde,	6
grow old and feeble.	In cowardys 3oure corage kelde.	
	But 3e had help, 3e shuld spille.	
	3e pat heuene blisse wole welde,	
	Let wit be lord aboue 30ure wille.	6
	(9)	
God has	¶ God hap lent 30w discrecioun	
given you discretion	Bobe of wele and of woo,	
of good and evil;	Werkis of deuocioun,	
practise virtue,	Vyces, vertues, frend, and foo.	68
	Sip 3e can part hem wel o two,	
	Let vyces on 30w brynge no bille.	
and let	be weye of grace, and 3e wol go,	
and let wis- dom rule over your will.	Let wyt be lord aboue 30ure wille.	7:

VI. To lyf' bodyly, is perylous.

[Digby 102, leaf 104.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Lerne bodyly to lyue.

by seruaunt, non hyre bou pay.

Pore ne riche, no ziftes zeue,

But take and gedre al bat bou may;

bouz it come wib wrong, say not nay,

But falsely loke bou swere and lize. be pore man is the riches pray.

Lerne bus to lyue bodilye.

(2)

¶ There market beteres gadere in prong, Loke pat company pou lede.

Loke but company bou lede.

Stalworply mayntene wrong;

So may bou wynne moche mede.

To reue fro pore take non hede.

Do as bou boust neuere to dye.

Say notes pater poster no crede.

Say noper pater noster ne crede. Lyue pou in ese bodyly.

(3

¶ Rechelesly be gouerne,
Day and ny3t; walke late
At cokes hostry and tauerne.

pous pat no man opere hate,
Go not er pou make debate.
To lewed, lettred, and clergye,
Do no reuerence to non astate:

pan men wole drede pe bodylye.

(4)

¶ Thé pat pe good wolde teche, Rebuke hem, and foule despise; Byd hem go to pe chirche and preche. ffolwe ²fooles, and fle fro wyse.

1 read 'lyue,' vb.

Give nobody his due,

4 but take from everybody.

8

Maintain wrong.

12 rob the poor,

never say a prayer.

Stroll about, day and night, in the taverns,

20 and set people against one another.

24

Despise those who teach you good, !

28 follow fools' counsels;
[2 leaf 104 b]

26	VI. To live for the Body only, is Perilous.	
never pass	3eue no doom in rizt assyse.	
a just sentence.	ffle fro troupe and pou hym spye.	
	Loke bou be proudest in alle gyse:	
	pan men wole preyse pe bodylye.	32
	/5)	
	(5)	
Be sorry at the happiness	¶ Loke bou haue sorwe sad	
of others, and pleased	Whan pou seest folk haue welfare;	
at their misfortune.	Loke bou be mery and glad	
	Whan bou wost folk haue sorwe and care.	36
Do nobody a benefit.	ffede non hungry, ne clope no bare;	
	Lete herberweles perout ly;	
	Visite no syke, and prisoners spare.	4.0
	Loue by seluen bus bodyly.	40
	(6)	
Calumniate	¶ 3if þy man be a good seruaunt	
your faithful servant,	pat be were lob to for-go,	
	Stele byn owen good fro his hand,	
	Bere on hym he stal it so.	44
and cause him to be im-	Bryng hym in presoun tho,	
prisoned.	Longe there for to lye,	
	Til he be fayn, for sorwe and wo,	
	To swere to serue pe bodylye.	4.8
	(7)	
Get a maid	¶ And 3if bou haue a damysele	
with a child,	pat serueb be wel, of trewe lynage,	
	ffonde to make here wombe to swelle,	
don't marry	Make no fors of no maryage.	52
her,	And 3if she grucche wip be to rage,	
	And alway fro the wole wrye,	
but beat	Bete here, and zeue here non oper wage,	
her.	And lyue in lustes bodylye.	56
	(8)	
Thus you	¶ Thus make þe byknowe.	
will get shame.	After by dede, resceyue thy name.	
	So shal pyn horn oft[e] blowe,	
	And hunte after his owen shame.	60

3e, pouz pou be of feble fame,
Bere good visage, py nouzt aspye,
Make perof but iape and game
In fleschly lustis bodylye.

64

(9)

¶ At masse, at matyns, rule 30w so:
Leue dewe deuocioun 30w byhynde.

Speke no good of frend ne foo,
Lete non skorneles fro 30w wende;
Loke no man be thy frende;
Lete no man thryue, but do hem nye;
Kepe hem pore, and to be bende:
ben wole bey drede be bodylye.

Speak good of nobody,

do harm to every man;

72 then all will dread you.

VII. Man, know thy self, and lerne to dye.

[Digby 102, leaf 104, back.] [15 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Annys soule is sotyl and queynt,
Shal neuere ende bou; he dede gynne.
The flesch is fals[e], frele, and feynt,
be world alone wolde wynne;
Is wormes mete, and sek of synne;
He nys neuere filt of glotonye;
His clobyng is a dedly skynne.
Man, knowe by self, and lerne to dye!

Man's soul is noble and immortal;

his body, mean and 4 mortal.

8

16

(2)

¶ Lerne to dye, and go to skole,
Sip pou fro dep may not fle.
Lete not py werkys preue pe fool.
Whan dep wole assaile pe,
Sende warnestor to py soule to be;
py vices fro py vertues trize.
3e sette zoure soule in kynges gre,
pat lernep wisely for to dize.

Learn to die wisely,

nor let your works prove you a fool.

	(3)	
All men	¶ Eche man in certayn is to dye,	
must die;	At domesday stonde in drede.	
61.0.0007	here al he worldis tresorye	
[1 leaf 105] neither meed	May not bye 1 thy lyf for mede,	20
nor wise counsel nor	No wys counseil pat dede pe lede,	
flattery can buy your lif.	Ne glosere wip his flaterye;	
	Non may helpe oper at nede:	
	ffor thy, man, wysely lerne to dye.	24
	(4)	
[nota]	¶ What may thy richesse be auayle	
Don't hoard up treasures,	Whan bou art to debe dryue?	
for they are useless after	Thy wynd is layd, bou mayst not sayle,	
death.	bouz bou lete out bonet and ryue.	28
Practise	Loke to vertues bou be 3yue	
virtue.	Er tombe be held to be lize;	
	ffor he pat gostly wel dop lyue,	
	He lerneb wysely for to dize.	32
	(5)	
	¶ Two skilles y wole telle	
Detain others	Why eche man shuld repreue operes synne:	
from sin; for if wicked	And he wyst hym self shuld go to helle,	
people go with you to	Counseyle no mo to come per-ynne:	36
hell, they increase	pe mo brondes, pe hattere brynne,	
the heat;	Incresyng of his maladye;	
	Here nys no charite, 3ut shal he wynne	
	To lasse his pyne after he dye.	40
	(6)	
	¶ And 3if he wiste to heuene to go,	
if holy men	His soule be saued in sikirnes,	
go with you to heaven,	He shulde counseile all folk do so,	
they increase your joy.	Saue here soules, and do not mys;	4.4
	Noust for here profyt, but al for his,	
	His owen ioye for to hy3e;	
	be mo soules, be more blis.	
	benk here-on, and lerne to dyze.	48

(7)

¶ Thy wikked werkis in þy 30wthe,
Seke hem wel tyll þou hem fynde,
And al þy tyme ri3t til nowþe;
Loke þat fardel þou vnbynde,
And shewe it wel wiþ shrift wynde;
No fende spot vppon the spy3e;

52 Confess

56

No fende spot vppon the spy3e And haue repentaunce in mynde. On his manere lerne to dy3e.

and repent al your sins.

(8)

¶ While man dop synne in werkis wylde,
Al pat tyme he nys but ded;
He nys not counted as fool ne childe,
But as a man can good and qued.
ffor his soule he telyep no bred;
Here landis of vertue laye don lyze.
Do comaundementis pat god bed,
pan lernest pou wysely to dyze.

As long as a man is in sin, his soul is dead.

64

60

(9)

¶ Pore, nedy, and gredy, bat not ne haue,
In goddis name 3eue bat asken ou3t.
Pore, nedy, and not gredy, bat no3t ne craue,
3eue hem bou3 bey ne aske nou3t.
And nedeles gredy byn almes sou3t,
3eue hem no byng bou3 bey crye:
bere nys no nede, 3ifte hab no mede.
Suche almesdede mon neuere dye.

Give alms to the poor though they don't crave;

68

but bestow nothing on undeserving people.

72

(10)

What argument may beter preue
Why men ben bent to don o mys?
Not but defaute of byleue.
I trowe pey wene no god per nys,
Ne helle pyne ne heuene blys,
Paradis ne purgatorie,
Or elles, a-noper heresy pere is,
As a best wipoute soule to die.

Disbeliet is the cause of sin.

(11)

	(/	
. Man has nothing of	¶ Man, of his owen, nouşten haue;	
his own;	Al is goddis, and he it lent.	
God will call him to	perof god wole rekenyng craue,	
account for everything.	How pou it wan, held, and spent;	8:
	by leste bouzt, and what it ment;	
[1 leaf 105 b]	Troupe, ¹ and lesyng bou dede lize;	
	And 3et by soule is goddis rent:	
	So quyte pat wel, lerne to dize.	38
	(12)	
Cry mercy that your	¶ Whanne bou dest byn almesdede,	
almsdeeds are so little	Crie god mercie it is so lite.	
in compari- son with your	To counte by richesse bou myst haue drede,	
sins.	In partye of payment so litel quyte.	9:
	pouz pou do mys, god nyl not flyte	
	Ne prete pe ones ne twyze;	
	Body and soule he can smyte.	
	Man, drede god, so lerne to dy3e.	() (
	(13)	
Don't hope	¶ Man, synne not in ouerhope,	
too much nor too little;	bou wynnest not goddis mercy wib figt;	
	Hit wolde brynge be in-to wanhope,	
	To wene no mercy bou haue ne myst.	100
God is just	Goddis mercy is medled wib his ry3t,	
and merciful.	And fro ry3t, god nyl not ply3e;	
	After be dede, be doom is dy3t.	
	Man, knowe pis wile er pou dyze.	10
	(14)	
Deadly sins	¶ Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf.	
are mortal knives :	Why loue men panne so ofte to synne?	
virtues are plasters to heal the wounds.	Eche vertue is a plastre of lyf.	
	He hab fre wille; lese, or wynne.	105
	To salue 3 oure sores now begynne;	
	pe holigost 30ure grace gy3e.	
	Sip body and soule mon parte o twynne,	
	To saue by soule, lerne to dy;e.	115
	To come for some of the control of	

¶ Truste not al to obere men, In almes dede ne prevere:

Don't rely on other people,

ffor state of soule can no man kenne.

ffor bey ben alle in goddis daungere,

In helle pyne, or blisse clere.

Repentaunce mot mercy byze.

While by dede is in by powere,

Be byn awen frend er bou dyze.

all are in the hand of 116 God:

work while

you may. 120

VIII. A good makunge of iour delane.

[Against the Clergy. A.D. 1408-9]

[Digby 102, leaf 105, back.]

[13 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Tan, haue hit in by boust Of what matere bou maked is.

God made the of noust;

Al pat bou hast, bou wost, is his.

Wheper hast bou served pyne or blisse,

Seche by werkis, and assaye;

by getyng, by holdyng, by spendyng mysse, ffro blisse wolde make Iour delaye.

4

Consider whether you deserve heaven, or hell.

(2)

To by bed whan bou shalt go, penk what bou hast don sen morn;

Wheper serued blisse or wo,

Or goddis name in ydel sworn,

Or ellys fals[e] witnesse born,

Letted pore men of here pray,

In by defaut here goodis lorn:

bou shalt answere here iour delay.

Think every day what sins you have committed.

16

12

(3)

Who takeb cure, he bereb charge By goddis lawe, be folk to preche bey make conscience large,

Take type, and nyl not teche.

nota

Curates should not only take their titlies, but also teach their 20 parishioners.

32 VIII	I. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy.	I.D. 1408-9.
[nota]	Crist his postles tau; t in speche ffro worldis worschip to wende a-way, Gostly and bodyly pe soules to leche, And bad hem make no iour delay.	24
	(4)	
Don't strive for riches and worldly honours; work for the people's	¶ Worldis good nes not holichirche; Richesse and worschep y 30w forbede. be folkis cherche, in hem 3e worche;	
happiness; don't hire others to do	Here noo oper to don by dede.	28
your office.	pat dop be dede, is worby mede. pou mayst not serue two lordis to pay pat on he serue in loue and drede,	,
	pat opere he seruep wip iour delay.	32
	(5)	
Those who	¶ Who ressayueb benefys for richesse and	ese
receive bene- fices only	To have his lyuyng in sykernes	
for revenues' sake, dis- please God,	Rapere pan serue god to plese,	
premot orday	He ressayue hit o mys.	36
[1 leaf 106]	ffor ri3t ¹as Iudas dede kys	
	Ihesus, and after, hym betray,	
and betray the souls of their parish- ioners.	So pey gyle pe soules fro blisse, Of goddis seruyce make iour delay.	40
	(6)	
	¶ Many seyn, "god is so wys,	
	Endeles ful of all mercy;	
	God nyl not, bou; y be nys,	
	Lese me purgh myn owen foly;	44
	So dere god mankynde dede bye;	
	What greuep god, pouz y go gay!"	
Whoever sins in excess of hope, shall be damned.	pat synnen in ouerhope, in helle mon ly pere-of mon be non iour delay.	3e;
	(7)	
Some men	¶ Many wole say, þat leue vneuene,	
say, 'If all sinners were	"And it were sop pat clerkis telle,	
punished, nearly all mankind	ffewe folkes shulde come in heuene,	
would go to	So fele as shulde renne hedlyng to helle	52

VIII. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy. A.D.	140	8–9. 33
Hit were hard pere to dwelle, Wip helle houndis stonde to bay." Synne mon be punsched, as saip pe gospelle; perof mon be no iour delay.	56	
(8)		
¶ That ouere puple haue astate, Colege or eny oper degre,		Those who rule over the people, should not strive for their own
Mayntene no debate ffor synguler profyt of temperalte.	60	profit,
3oure rule is groundid in charyte, As li3t of lanterne to lede be way. To gouerne be puple in vnyte,		but to promote the public weal.
God bad hem make no iour delay.	64	
(9)		
¶ Beter is litel ry3twys wonne, pere-of among pe pore to dele, pan ouer moche geten wip synne,		It is better to get little with right, than much with wrong.
Wibouten desert take pore mennys wele, And helpe not be soule to hele, But crye in pyne wey-laway.	68	
be soules be curatours wole apele To answere of here iour delay.	72	Folk's souls will accuse bad curates.
(10)		
¶ Why ressayue 3e worschipe \$\pa t\$ 3e haue? ffor 3oure vertues, or for 3oure vys? And 3e ful worschip saue,		Are you respected for virtues or for vices?
In word and werk 3e mot be wys.	76	
bis worldly wysdom is gostly nys, Whan werk acordeb not wib wordis 3e say. Heuene blys, and bis worldis delys,		Your wicked works will prove you to
pat on wil make iour delay.	80	be fools.
(11)		

Thow may not knowe a cristen man bous bou here hym say his crede.
be ten comaundementis tan,
And speke, and do not be dede,
POEMS (OXF.).

Whoever says his creed and the 10 command-ments,

84 but does not observe them,

D

34	IX. Treat with God of Love & Peace.	A.D. 1410.
is a heretic.	Ne serue god in loue and drede, Is heretyk out of fay. After 3oure werkis, ressayue by mede; perof mon be no iour delay.	88
	(12)	
Don't suffer your soul to be a thrall of riches;	¶ Thou; worldis richesse on pe falle, And wolde gon bytwen god and pe, Suffre not py soule be pralle;	
God bought it to make it free.	penk, god bou3t it to make pe fre. pou3 py mayster a tyraunt be, ffro goddis lawe wolde say nay, Do as [thapostle] Poule bad pe:	92
	Abyde, and suffre wip iour delay.	96
	(13)	
You don't know when and where you will die;	¶ Man, pou wost wel pou shalt dy3e; What dep, ne where, pou nost whenne. And synnes wolde py soule ny3e,	
	And symbols worde py source myse, And more rerage we renne, And sodeyn deb nyl no man kenne.	100
therefore, you should always be prepared for death.	I rede we drede domesday; Be euene wib world er 3e gon henne,	704
	ffor pere schal be no iour delay.	104

IX. Wlith god of loue & pes, ze trete.

[Easter, 1410.]

[Dighy 102, leaf 106, back.]

[24 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Clean your souls by shrift,

repentance, and alms-

deeds.

This holy tyme make 30w clene,
Burnysche bry3t 30ure soules blake.

ffro 30w to god, let be prest be mene.

To do penaunce, and synnes forsake,
Wib almes dede amendes make,
And repentaunce may grace gete.

In goode werkis wysely wake,
And wib god of pes, y rede 3e trete.

4

(2)

Mip soulis brist in god 3e glade
As shynyng angels out of synne,
In worschip of hym pat 30w made,
To knowe 30ure seluen now bygynne.
To stryue wip god we may not wynne;
Bope body and soule he can bete.
Ihesus is broper of oure kynne;
ffor-py wip god of [pes] 3e trete.

You will not win if you strive with God.

16

20

(3)

If Ofte han we treted wip god o trewe,
And sayde no more synne we wolde;
And euery 3eere we breke it newe,
Thre dayes no trewes wip hym nele holde;
Synne to bay many a folde
On soules helle houndes slete.
Er 3e come pere, 3onge and olde,
Wip god of pes y rede 3e trete.

You always break your promise to sin no more.

Amend while you have time.

(4)

¶ Trete while 3e haue 3oure hele,
ffor sodeyn deb stomblen as blynde.

pe grettere lordschipe of worldis wele,
pe more in braldom hit dob hem bynde.

Man, benke by lyf is but a wynde;
When bat is blowen, bou art for3ete;
Holde couenaunt to god, and be kynde.
ffor-by, wib god of pes 3e trete.

The greater the lordship, the greater the slavery in sin.

32

(5)

To a prest, and weel 30w shryue;

No3t turne a3en perto to-morwe,

But penke be good al thy lyue.

Wip goddis sonde looke 3e not stryue,

Ne derne mornyng counterfete.

Rekne wysely aH by wittes fyue,

Wip god of pes when 3e do trete.

Confess your sins, repent, and give them up for ever.

40

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	(6)	
	The synnes bat wolde by soule apayre,	
	To a prest shewe be cas.	
Don't palliat	Loke pat pou not paynte hit fayre,	
your sins from false shame.	But shewe it for rist ful as it was.	4.
shame.	bat shame is mede for by trespas;	
	ffor synne pat wolde by soule prete,	
	Aske mercy, and seche gras,	
	Wip god of pes when 3e trete.	48
	(7)	
	(7)	
Whoever clips money	That clippen money, pey haue pe curs	
or uses false weights and	ffoure tymes in be 3ere;	
measures, scorns God.	Here waztes, pat pey waye pe wors,	
	3erde or elne, fer or nere;	52
	Wheper pey selle good chep or dere:	
	But pey pe full mesure mete,	
	Hit semeb in skornyng bat it were,	
	Wip god of pes whan 3e trete.	56
	(8)	
Carriers-out of the laws,	Auyse 30w hat leden lawe,	
do poor people jus-	ffor drede of lordschipe or for mede	
tice!	Holde no pore men in awe	0.0
	To storble here ry3t or lette here nede.	60
	Hit bryngeb be soule in gret drede,	
	Azens goddis lawe to plete.	
	be rolles arist y red se rede,	0.4
[leaf 107]	Wip god of pes when 3e trete.	64
	(9)	
Those who	¶ That haldeb questes or assise,	
eceive or pay fees and	pat takeb or zeueb fee or hire,	
axes, should ot pervert	Lette not lawe fro rist gyse,	
he laws.	Ne mayntene wrongis as master and sire.	68
	bey may be ferd for helle fire,	
	pey may be left for helle life.	
	To ete here neyşebores at here mete.	

Confess all your sins

communion: otherwise

you commit a sacrilege.

¶ 3e bat comeb to goddis bord, Rescevueb hym in clene lyf; Holde non old synnes in hord, ffor panne begynnep a newe stryf; ffor he to god hab drawen his knyf, pat penkeb in skorne bere wolde hym etc. Here be war, man and wyf, Horde no synne when 3e trete!

80

(11)

¶ Man, zif bou haue tan a fal, Ryse vp, and no more slyde; O prest, by shrifte schewe it al, But hyde no synne in hord by syde. In venyale synne longe to byde, Makeb dedly synnes to growe grete. Wib 30ure werkis 3e mot chyde, Wib god of pes when 3e trete.

Confess to one priest 84 your mortal and venial sins;

(12)

¶ Seuene sybes on be day, Men seyn, the riztwis man dob falle. panne he pat fallep in synnes alway, How shulde he rekene bo synnes alle? But he wrot hem, grette and smalle, Summe at shrifte he schulde forzete, He shulde be prest be oftere calle, Wib god of pes when 3e trete.

92

96

88

don't forget any.

(13)

I four acountes bou shalt zelde: God made be lyk to his ymage; How bou it wan, how bou it helde, How bou it spendid in wast outrage. fforfete not heuene, byn heritage; Among seyntes by soule sete. Rekene ere bou renne in rerage, And wib god of pes 3e trete.

 $not\alpha$

100 Don't forfeit your heritage in heaven.

(14)

God sends mischief to a kingdom where his law is not kept.

¶ Holy writ biddeb god sende vengeaunce To kyngdom pat nele not holde his lawe,

Wrappe and stryf and alle greuaunce

Among prynces and pore men prawe, 108 hat nele not leue goddis sawe Ne counte his gynnyng at o clete.

To werkis of wysdom, by tyme 3e drawe, And wip god of pes ze trete.

(15)

Those who don't make amends for their sins are wanting in faith.

¶ Who so leued pat god were trewe, pan wolde pey do pat god hem bede.

bat mende no mysse, but synne ay newe, Hem lakkep all be poyntes of be crede.

Serue god for helle drede Lest by soule falle in chete;

And loue god for heuene mede;

Wib love and drede wib god ze trete.

(16)

Though you take orders. you get no reward without charity.

¶ bou; bou take ordre or religeoun, Wip-oute charite pou seruest no mede. [leaf 107, back] Beue drynke to bursty, bat han and mown, Clobe be naked, and hungry fede, 124

Vysite be pore and syk bat nede, And giltles presoneres, loos 3e lete, And burye be dede, is charite dede;

Wib bes werkis, wib god 3e trete.

(17)

Pay what you owe to your neigh-bour and to God, and receive heaven as your due.

I pere bou hast borwed, quyte by dette, And to by seruaunt bat reson is.

Loke what degre god hab be sette; Quyte hym by dette, by soule is his,

And resceyue by dette, heuene blis; pere than be nober swynke ne swete;

And ordeyne be wele, and amende by mys. bus wib god of pes 3e trete.

136

132

128

112

116

(18)

¶ Caste be not to couetys,

3e bat ry3twys werryours be,

But loke where ri3t querel lys;

Chastise be rebell in charite.

bere god is frend, his foomen fle;

3e thar not counte hem at o pete.

God dob batayle, and not 3e;

fforthy, with god of pes 3e trete.

Warriors should not be covetous,

140 but chastise rebels in charity.
God helps his friends.

144

(19)

¶ And 3e in batayle haue maystrie,
And fortune serue, and god 3ow spede,
Thank god þe victorie,
And holde it not 3oure owen dede.
Serue god in loue and drede,
And be not proud of 3oure by3ete.
After 3oure werkis, wayte aftur 3oure mede,
And so wiþ god of pes 3e trete.

Thank God for victory, don't think it your own work.

152

(20)

¶ 3if a clerk haue purgh hap
Cure of soules or bischopriche,
He hat not bischop, he hat a byshap;
Make opere after his werkis like.
To kepe his shep fro helle tike,
In folde go, amonge hem blete;
Saf and sounde brynge hem y-lyk,
Bytwen god and hem to trete.

Bishops, like good shepherds,

156 should keep their flocks from hell's tikes.

160

(21)

¶ Benefice of holychirche first was graunted,
For prestis, holy lyf to lede;
Dryue out synne, suffre non be haunted;
Here non oper to do his dede.
pe werkman is worpy his mede
In felde, in toun, and in strete.
Teche vnwys, helpe hem pat nede,
Byfore god for hem to trete.

Priests ought to be models to the people;

they shouldn't hire others to do their work.

10 111	Treat with God of Hote at Leace. A.D. 1410.	21.
	(22)	
They promise	¶ In wordis pey sayn pey wil do wel,	
to do their duty,	Take cure of soules as worthi clerkis,	
	And resceyue be charge euery del	
and wash sin- ful souls'	To wasche synful soules serkis.	179
shirts,	pey preue hemself fooles in werkis;	
but they are proved fools	Wib holy water nele no parischen wete.	
by their works.	Caste away Antecrist merkis,	
		170
	Gop wip god of pes to trete.	111
	(23)	
	¶ Now sumwhat y haue 30w sayd	
	What is salue to 3 oure sore. [MS. store]	
	To sauzten wip god, holde zow payed,	
Prepare to receive God	And arraye 30w wel perfore	180
in the sacra- ment.	To resceyue god, 3 oure soules store,	
inche.	His body in forme of bred o whete,	
	And kepe hym: so 3e nede no more	
	Eft of pes wib hym to trete.	18
	(24)	
Repent, and	¶ Whan pou hast told al py greuaunce,	
do penance for your sins.		
tor your sine,	han do as he prest he tauste;	
fl loof 1007	Holde wel by penaunce;	10
[1 leaf 108]	Repentaunce, ¹ forzete pat nouzt.	18
	Whan 3e wip loue god han lau3t,	

Repentaunce, ¹ forzete þat nouzt.

Whan ze wiþ loue god han lauzt,

Neuere fro zow hym ze lete.

God brynge zow to his angels sauzt,

pere neuere nys nede o pes to trete.

192

X. I good steryng to henenward.

[Digby 102, leaf 108.]
[15 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc, ddd, c.]

(1)

Many people don't like to hear vices reproved, Many man is lop to here
Repref of vices and werkis ylle;
For pride hem penkep goddis pere,
pat welde pis worldis wele at wylle;
At a sarmon wil bid a frere

Make it short, or ellys be stylle.

and will tell a friar to cut his sermon short, or be still.

Hym pat is lop, good to lere,		
He shal, wheher he wole or nylle.	8	
We fare as knaue bat take his hyre byfore,		
Serue his mayster wel be worse berfore.		
Richesse and hele maket men vnkynde,		Wealth
pat goddis seruyce is out of mynde;	12	makes men forget
For graceles and gostly blynde		religion.
pe flesch distroyep soules store.		
(2)		
¶ God seip, "Man, y made pe of nouzt,		God says to man, "I
And put the into paradys,	16	placed thee in Paradise,
Of erpely pynges pat y wrouzt,		
To name pat neded to pyn eys.		
I lent be fre wil and boust,		
Warnyng of foly to be wys;	20	
At he tre of wysdom, foly hou sou;t,		
And 3af for an appyl pe most of prys.		
he same moup hat he appyl gnewe,		
In pat moup be holy croys grewe,	24	
Wheron y dyed for 3 oure gylt;		which thou lost by sin.
purgh pe herte and purgh pe mylt		2000 2000
I hadde pe poynt, and 3e pe hylt;		
3 oure heritage y bou3t 3 ow newe.	28	
(9)		
(3)		
¶ 3e pouzte 3e had not ynow		
Euere lastyng lyf and euere more rest;		
3e braken my byddyng, 3e benden a bow,	0.0	
3e boten an appyl pat pirled my brest.	32	
Wip water, for synne pe world y slow,		I drownd all men save 7
Saue seuene, and noe hat was my gest.		and Noah.
My loue to man it was so tow,	0.0	
Hit lasted forp and nolde not brest.	36	
For mannys loue I come fro blisse to pyne.		C!*
Man was so pore, he had not to fyne.		Since thou couldst pay
3 our gyltes greued god so sare,	10	no fine,
3 oure gyltes on my bak y bare,	40	I redeemed thee with my
bat god my fader nolde me not spare		own life.
Tyl he had 3euen my lyf for þyne.		

(4)

	()	
	¶ My puple, where greued y 30w or pyne?	
I led thee through the	But ladde 30w purgh pe see so rede	44
Red Sea,	With Aaron and moyses, myn owen hyne,	
and destroyed thy enemies,	And alle 3 oure enemys y drowned to dede,	
	For 3e shuld kepe lawe myne.	
	In wildernes y made 3 oure stede,	48
	To 30w y planted myn owen vyne,	
and fed thee with angels'	And fourty 3eer fed 30w wip angels brede.	
bread.	Wip loue I dede 30w my lawe to teche,	
	Bycom a man to be 30ure soule leche.	52
	Wip a spere 3e shed myn herte blood.	
	be pore 3e harme, and do no good.	
	3eue I chastyse, 3e calle me wood;	
	And but 3e mende, y wol take wreche.	56
	(5)	
	¶ Man, hast pou ouzt in mynde,	
	pe pyne y suffred wip be iewes felle?	
	3 oure soules of derkenes to vnbynde,	
[1 lf. 108, bk.]	¹ I suffred de þ , and heryed helle.	60
I suffered death for	Answere me, man! was y kynde?	
thee.	Mi3t y do more, canst pou me telle?	
	A beter frend, and pou can fynde,	
	Leue me, and go wip hym dwelle.	64
	I do be wele, why dost me woo?	
I am thy	I am by frend, bou art my foo.	
friend, thou art my foe.	pere y zeue pes, pou makest debate.	
	bere y loue, bou dost hate,	68
	And stekest me wipoute pe 3ate.	
	My worldys goodis bou holdest me fro.	
	(6)	
	Man, you dost as a thef	72
	bat hat holycherche gre,	12
	Whan men wold take hem wip repref,	
Thou callst me at need,	pat to chirche he wole fle.	
like a thief who takes his	So dop man pat is in gref	76
refuge in a church.	Or in syknes; pan callep he me.	70

And 3ut, man, bou art me so lef,		Though I
Wip mercy and rupe y bowe to pe.		have mercy on thee,
3if y byd pe my lawe to fulfille,		thou for-
bou hauntest by synne, and wonest beryn stille.	. 80	sakest me, and sinnest
bou hatest all pat loue my name.		again.
bou wost bou seruest so gret blame:		
How darst bou byd me, for shame,		
To bowe to be or worche by wille?	84	
(7)		
¶ Man, bou to my lawe art knyt;		
Why hollddest bou werre agaynes me,		
My worldis goodis in hord to pyt		Thou heapest
Fro pore pat by breperen be?	88	up riches, and oppress-
Art bou not warned by holy writ?		est the poor, whom I
I made, and bouzte hem as dere as be.		bought as dearly as
Hit is wanhope gob byfore 3oure wit.		you.
þat 3e hyde, ful bry3t y se.	92	
ffor be pyne y dede for 30w dry3e,		
3eue byn herte, wib teres of byn ey3e.		
Repente sore for by trespas!		
So ly3tly my3t bou come to gras,	96	
To heuene, to pat worpy plas,		
To byze to be, on rode gan dyze.		
(0)		
(8)		
Man, how darst bou my lawe preche,	100	How darest thou say thy
And telle be articles of be fay?	100	creed, since thy works
My wit word, wip by moup teche,		belie thee,
And in by werkis bou seyst hit nay?		
Wip there and wip spouse breche	104	in theft and adultery?
bou delest and rennest ny3t and day.	104	
In pyne bou sechest byn owen wreche.		
Thow temptest me to be wrappeful ay.		
I mad be wys and fayre, angels pere,	100	I made thee like an angel,
bou makest be fool, and foul fendis fere. by lyztnes bou spendest in harlotrye;	108	thou makest thyself like a
by strengle, in wrappe and tyrauntrye;		devil, and
by fayrenesse, in pryde and lecherye.		
bou settest at nouzt, y bouzt so dere.	112	settest at nought what
pour boulet no monge, y bouge so dote.	112	I bought so dear.

(9)

	(9)	
Thou takest	¶ To greue me, men þenke it game	
delight in offending me,	To breke be lawe bat y be bed;	
and in recom- pensing evil	In despyt, forswere name,	
for good.	By woundis y had in handis and hed.	116
	I do pe worschipe, pou dost me shame;	
	I 3af þe lyf, þou 3af me ded,	
	Mirre and galle to drynke wip grame.	
	I zeue be my body in fourme of bred.	120
	3e fare wip me, as gest his yn dop borwe,	
[1 leaf 109]	Resceyue to-day, and put me out to ¹ morwe.	
	Agayn to synne whan 3e go,	
	Shamely 3e put me 30w fro.	124
	And 3e desyre I be 3oure foo,	
	3e gete but wreche and dowble sorwe.	
	(10)	
	\	
Some despise the divine	¶ And 3e defoule my holy place,	128
service which I ordered,	, , ,	120
	Holy chirche is spirytual grace;	
	be duwe dette, deuyne seruyse.	
and say I am not God.	bey calle me as he bat no god was.	132
	bat cure of soules don despise,	102
	ffro hem y wole turne my face,	
	And calle hem as fooles out-casten fro wyse.	
Those who sell souls for	pat sellen soules for temperal getyng, bey maken skourges to here owe betyng;	136
worldly riches, make	Here good dayes ben wastyng,	100
scourges for themselves.	And bey, to helle hastyng	
	To be wip fendis chastyng,	
	fulfille on hem my thretyng.	140
	fulfille on field my throughs.	
	(11)	
My sword	¶ My swerd is fyre pat brynnep bry3t,	
shall sever right from	Shal shede be rizt fro be wrong.	
wrong.	I brenne sheldis and swerdis in fy3t;	
	As whirlewynd y skatre be fals brong.	144
	No kyng shal be saued by his my3t,	
	Ne pe geaunt, be he neuere so strong.	

<i>U</i>		10
pat y am god, 3e shal knowe ry3t;		Thou shalt
Nes non bot I, endeles long.	148	know that I am God.
3e may not serue two lordis to plese,		
ffede fatte shep in greceles lese.		
hat plesen me, 3e holde hem nys;		Thou scornest my friends,
pat gylep pe world, 3e holde hem wys.	152	and thinkest those wise
3e may not wynne, wip 3oure delys,		who deceive the world.
Here and in heuene bope, 3 oure ese.		
(12)		
¶ In this world, to folk ful fele		
Goddis wordis þis my3t be:	156	Thou didst
Man, bou serued me not in bi wele;		not love me in thy happi-
Why shulde y knowe pi pouerte?		ness; why should I help
bou loued me not in bi hele;		thee in thy distress?
In syknes why shulde y rewe be?	160	
Fro my comaundement pou dede stele:		
Of hem bou serued, fong by fee!		
3et, o god, be fader of blysse,		
be holy gost salueb soule syknesse.	164	
bou; we agylte be godhed,		
Mercy moueb be manhed,		
ffor loue of his brepered,		
3eue mercy to mekenesse!	168	
(13)		
¶ 3if man ligge long in synne,		The longer
And wilfully fleet fro grace,		man lives in sin,
To sharpe my wreche y wole bygynne,		the more
Take vengeaunce for his trespas.	172	vengeance I shall take
His enemys, I wole leten hem ynne,		on him.
As bestes in forestes, 30w to chas.		
For drede 3e shal nowhere wynne,		
But fynde my wrappe byfore here face.	176	
I saued moyses in be rede see,		
Ionas in whales wombe dayes pre;		If thou keep
pre children in pe fyre so rede.		my law, I ashall save
Dauyd slow golyas to dede.	180	thee, as I saved, Moses,
Do 3e pe lawe pat y hem bede,		Jonah, the 3 Children,
And 3e shal haue be same degre.		and David.

(14)

	(17)	
[if. 109, bk.]	¶ Man, I can do þe erþe to shake,	
I can destroy	Wip flood and drowtes distroye 3oure wele.	184
everything.	I chastise erpe; 3e sample take:	
	I may sle, zeue lyf and hele,	
	ffyre and thonder fro heuene make;	
	Nes non fro my strokes may stele.	188
On doomsday all men shall	At domesday do 30w alle quake	
be judged according to	Whan 3 oure owen werkis wole 3 ow apele;	
their works.	panne knaue, beggere, pore bropelyng,	
	May apere wip pape and wip kyng.	192
	pere shal non reuerence haue,	
	Ne mercy, pouz pey wolde craue.	
	Here dedis shal hem deme, or saue.	
	pan alle to me shal zelde rekenyng.	196
	(15)	
All worldly	¶ Man, þe worldis good is myn;	
treasures are mine;	How bou it spende, tak good hede.	
	Hit is myn, and not byn,	
	No more pan pou hast of nede;	200
thou shouldst	Not to fostre be as a swyn,	
not revel	by foule flesche in fylbe to fede,	
while the	And leue be pore in hunger and pyn,	
poor die of hunger,	And fynde hem nober foode ne wede.	204
	And pore folk on by defaute dyze,	
	Wip diues in pyne bou shalt lyze;	
but let them	ffor bou shuld zeue, god dede be sende.	
partake of what I sent thee."	Tak kep how bou it spende;	208
tnee.	for pat leuep be byhende,	
	bow mon rekene, or be abyze.	
	VI God of man han made atte on	[Easter,
	XI. God & man ben made atte on.	1412]

1412]

[Digby 102, leaf 109, back.] (15 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.)

(1)

Praise God! he has avenged us on our enemies,

Glade in god, bis solempne fest, Now Alleluya is vnloken. penkep how god, lest and mest, On oure enemys hab vs wroken,

AI. God and Man made at One. Easter	141.	2. 41
 pat hadde vs in cheynes stoken, Wrappid in synnes many on. pe fendis are flowen, pe cheynes are broken, And god and man are wel at on. 	8	and God and man are at one.
(2)		
¶ ffirst whan god wib man was wrob,		
pat Adam forfeted for his vys,		When Adam
Man to angels was so lob,		had sinned,
pey dreuen hym out of paradys.	12	
To amende here foly, god so wys,		
Wiþ fals iewes let hym slon;		
Here raunsom was his blod o prys;		God ransom-
So was god and man at on.	16	ed him with his blood, and so were God and man
(3)		at one.
¶ And 3it a ferly more byfelle,		
pat god dede purgh his grete myst:		
be soules he loued, he fet fro helle		When Christ
To paradys among his angels bry3t.	20	took the holy souls from Heil to
Hem þou3te þat was a wonder sy3t,		Heaven,
Among here frendes, brynge here foon.		
Al on wrong, god made rizt:		
So made god angels and man at on.	24	angels and man were at one.
(4)		
¶ The pridde sawatenyng mowe 3e proue.		
When posteles stryuen for hize degre,		Jesus taught
God spak to hem a word of loue,		his apostles to be humble
And seyde, "pes wip 30w be!	28	and practise charity,
Elles 3e may not folwe me,		•
But 3e will in my gates gon."		
So god bond man in charite,		
Byddis man and man be wel at on.	32	and so were
(5)		man and man at one.
¶ The fere sawatenyng, god vs tauate,		
pat best may kepe eche in state.		
Let body and soule to-gydre be sau;te,		Let body
Kepe god 1 wip-yn 3 oure ynnere 3 atc. [1 leaf 110]	36	and soul be at one.

To lityl whyle y was here gest.

My loue y loste, y make my mon.

Let god now lengere wip 30w rest,

Now god and man is wel at on.

72

(10)

¶ Folk pat were fendis fere,
Sulpid in synne derk as ny3t,
Now are pey fayre angels pere,
As shynyng sune in goddis sy3t.
3e haue resceyued 3oure god of my3t,
Ayper in oper, 3oure wille is on.
3oure hertys were heuy, pey may be li3t;
Glade in god, 3e ben at on.

You were as black as devils, God has made you as fair as angels.

80

76

(11)

¶ Man, and 3e holde my lawe,
AH pyn enemys shal pe drede;
And pou stonde of me non awe,
pyn enemys outeray pe in dede.
For pere as I my frendis lede,
pey shul not sporne at stok ne ston.
In aH here werkis pey shal wel spede,
3if god and man be wel at on.

Man, if thou keepest my law, I shall destroy thy enemies.

84

88

(12)

¶ Myn enemys, y shal reue here sy3t,
3eue syknes and drede, pouert and wo;
My frendis, y 3eue sy3t and my3t,
Richesse, strengþe ouer here foo;
Hem thar not drede, where þey go,
Here wele and worschip, in euery won.
Siþ 3e be syker, kepe 3ow so.
Now god and 3e are ¹wel at on.

I shall ruin my foes, and reward my friends.

92

96 [1 lf. 110, bk.]

(13)

¶ Man, y aske no þyng of þyn.
For loue, my loued in helle y sou3t.
3eue me þy loue, þy soule is myn;
Or 3eue it hym þat it² derrere bou3t.
POEMS (OXF.).

Give me thy love,

100 [2MS. hab it]

5 0	XI.	God & Man at On	e. XII.	God keep our	King & Crown!
------------	-----	-----------------	---------	--------------	---------------

	Suffre pyne for be, me nedid noust,	
	In hed, in hand, in foot, ne ton.	
I died for	3 oure gyltis y bare in herte and poust,	
thee.	I made my fadir and 30w at on.	104
	(14)	
	¶ Sum of my kyndenes, 3e my3te me quyte.	
	Do pre wordis of my comandement:	
Don't dis- grace my	My name, my pyle take not in despite;	
name. Control thy-	Rule wel by selue in good atent.	108
self.	Thow nost how sone be after sent,	
	To 3elde rekenyng of goddis lon.	
	The rolles of rerage be fendis han brent,	
	ffor god and man is wel at on.	112
	(15)	
	¶ And pou me loued, pou wolde me leue,	
	And do my lawe, and holde it trewe.	
Thou canst	How my3test bou me more repreue	
me more	pan leue my lawe, and tak[e] newe?	116
leaving my law and	by vyces wole make by soule to rewe:	
taking a new one.	In derkenes neuere sonne shon;	
	Vertues shyne bry3t of hewe.	
	Holde goddis lawe, 3e ben at on.	120

XII. God saue the hyng, and kepe the croun.

[Easter, 1413.]
[Digby 102, leaf 110, back.]
[19 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

8

(1)

In ioye and blisse 3 oure merbe encres,

And kepe goddis lawe in querte;

bes holy tyme, lete sorwe ases.

Among oure self, god sende vs pes!

berto eche man be boun:

To letten fooles of here res,

Stonde wib be kyng, mayntene be croun.

Lord, send us peace! Let everybody counteract fools' designs, and stand up for the king. (2)

¶ What dob a kynges crowne signyfye, Whan stones and floures on sercle is bent?

Lordis, comouns, and clergye

To ben all at1 on assent.

To kepe bat crowne, take good tent, In wode, in feld, in dale, and downe.

be leste lyge-man, wib body and rent,

He is a parcel of be crowne.

(3)

¶ What signyfyeb be stones aboute? Richesse, strengbe, and gret bounte;

Oure townes and castels, be reme wib-oute,

bey are oure stones of gret pouste.

In pes bey kepe all bis contre, Holynes, contemplacioun.

God, let hem neuer skaterid be,

And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne!

(4)

¶ By-3 onde be see, and we had noust, But all oure enemys so neyze vs were,

bous all here gold were hider broust,

I wolde set hit at lytel store. Oure enemys wolde coke berfore

Wib ordynaunce and habergeoun,

Wynne bat, and wel more:

Oure landes, oure lyues, be reme, be crowne.

(5)

¶ 3if we among oure self debate,

pan endeb floure of chyualrie.

Alle opere londis pat dop vs hate, Oure feblenes wole aspye;

On euery syde bey 2 wole in hye, be stalworbe cast be feble adoun.

3if bey wib myst haue maystrye,

ffro be rist heire wolde take be crowne.

1 at is added by another hand.

The stones and flowers set round a king's

crown signify that all classes should join in defending it.

16

The stones signify riches and strength,

our towns and castles 20 abroad.

24

All the treasures of our enemies could not outweigh our possessions beyond 28 the sea.

32

If we quarrel,

our enemies will overcome 36 us,

[2 leaf 111]

and take the crown from the lawful heir.

(6)

If the crown	¶ 3if sercle, and floures, and riche stones,	
were broken, and the	Were eche a pece fro oper flet;	
stones and flowers scat-	Were be crowne broken ones,	
tered, it would be	Hit were ful hard agen to knet.	4.4
difficult to unite them	Auyse 30w er 3e suffre þat fit;	
again.	Amende, 3e pat mende mown!	
	30 bat hen wysest, cast 30ure wyt;	
	Stonde wip be kyng to kepe be crowne.	48
	(7)	
	` '	
Don't suffer	To kepe be crowne, god graunte 30w grace,	
the crown to be broken.	And let it neuere be to-broken;	
No harm is	For word of wynd lityl trespase;	52
done though evil words be	Non harm nys don, bou; word be spoken.	-
spoken.	Let wysdom be vnloken,	
	Apert and preuyly to rowne.	
	For non euyl wille no man be wroken,	56
	But stonde wip rizt, mayntene pe crowne.	00
	/o\	
	(8)	
	¶ A man my3te be forborn	
	Fer fro a kynges place,	
Whoever per	Wolde make a kyng to be forsworn	60
suades the king to im-	To lette be lawe, it most not passe,	00
pede the law	' And make hym wene pat he grace,	
	And holy in condicioun,	
	And mayntene hym in his trespace,	13.4
picks stones	Title be nykoh be stones out of pe crowne.	64
crown.	(9)	
A kingdom	¶ A kyngdom must be governed by rist,	
must be governed	To chastyse false pat ar aspyed.	
with justice	Falsed and troupe to gydlo word and	68
	Til oon pat oper hap distroyd;	00
	Til troube be fro treson tryed,	
	Shal neuere be pes in regyon.	
	In all kyngdomes pat man hap gyed,	72
God gives the crown	To be place of vertues god geneb be crowne.	6

XII. God save the King, & keep the Crown! Easter 1413. 53

(10)¶ Thou; falsed troube defame, veritas Truth always fights against Troube secheb non hernes to shewe his speche; Falsehood, Troupe, of his craft benkeb no shame; 76 He is bold, alle folk his craft to teche; And euere by troube stondes wreche, For wreche is goddis champioun. and Revenge helps to Or wreche smyte, god be leche, ruin him. And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne. 80 (11)¶ Loke of byng bat 3e bygynne, Caste before how it wole ende, Gostly, bodyly, what move ze wynne. Eche man destroyze his best frend: 84 Lord, guard us from such So dede Flaundres; how dede it wende? treachery as has been Of noblay bey han lore be sown; committed in Flanders! Pray we god his bowe of wrappe vnbende, And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne. 88 (12)God gives the king the As a god, in erbe a kyng hab myst. power of punishing all crimes.

¶ God 3eueb his doom to alle kynges bat be;
As a god, in erbe a kyng hab my3t.

Holy writ byd, blissed be he

In alle tymes bat demeb ry3t.

Men do in derk, god seeb in ly3t.

Synne, morbere, derne tresoun,

Not may be hyd fro goddis sy3t.

To ry3twys Iuge, god 3eueb be crowne.

God give the king power of punishir crimes.

92

Men do in derk, god seeb in ly3t.

Synne, morbere, derne tresoun,

Not may be hyd fro goddis sy3t.

96

(13)

That 'lord loue' lityl hym selue, A lord is not wise if he pat zeueb his blisse for sorwe and woo. loses the love of all the For be loue of ten or twelue, people, 100 [11f. 111, bk.] Make alle folk his foo, And lese be loue of god also, and of God. to please a For fawte of perfeccyone. few persons. pous he had no vauntage but of bo, He myste were a symple crowne. 104

(14)

Every king acts in the place of God;	¶ Eche a kyng hap goddis power, Of lyf and leme to saue and spille.	
he must not	He muste make god his partener,	
own will.	And do not his owen wille.	108
	For god resceyue, eche pore mannys bille,	
	And of here playnt, god hereb be sowne.	
	Sette 3oure in euene skille,	
	Counseile be kyng to kepe be crowne.	112
	(15)	
A father beats his	The fadir, pe wanton child wole kenne,	
wanton child;	Chastyse wip 3erde, and bete hit sore.	
if it im- proves, he	So after, pe fadyr pe zerde wole brenne,	
burns the rod.	When child is wys, and takep to lore.	116
We have	We han ben goddis 3erde 3ore,	
rod, of which many a twig	Chastysed kyngdom, castell, and towne.	
has been lost in chas-	Twyggis of oure 3erde we have forlore.	
tising the kingdom.	God saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne!	120
	(16)	
The renown of the Eng-	¶ Englische men dede maystry3es make;	
lish has spread all	burgh all be world, here word it sprong.	
over the world;	Cristen and hepen bey mad to quake,	
··· Vaste y	Tok and slowen kynges strong.	124
	God let neuere werre be vs among,	
may we never lose it!	To lese pat blo of gret renowne,	
210 101 1000 101	Ne neuere oure rist be turned to wrong.	
	God saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne!	128
	(17)	
By civil wars	¶ Among oure self, 3if fi3t be raysed,	
we ruin ourselves.	pan stroye we oure awen nest.	
	pat hap victor, wole be euel payed,	
	So many good men ben lest.	132
[1 MS. berst]	3it is beter bowe pan brest.1	
	Eche man is bounden to resoun.	
	3e þat ben wysest, take þe best;	
	Conseile pe kyng, mayntene pe crowne!	136

XII. God save the King! XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414. 55

(18)

¶ A comons myst sone be shent, Wib-outen kyng or gouernour, And a kyng wiboute rent Myat liatly trussen his tresour, For comons mayntene lordis honour, Holy chirche, and religyoun, For comouns is be fayrest flour

The king and the commons depend on each other.

140

The Commons are the 144 fairest flower of the Crown.

> Lord, let this kingdom never be spoiled by our own

148

fault.

but keep our king, Henry V 152 and save the crown.

(19)

pat euere god sette on erbely crown.

¶ God, lete þis kyngdom neuere be lorn Among oure self, in no distance! Oper kyngdomes laughe vs not to skorn, And sey, for synne god send vengeance. God, zeue vs space of repe[n]tance, Good lyf, and deuocioun; And god, kepe in by gouernance Oure comely kyng, and saue be crowne!

XIII. Dede is worchung.

[A.D. 1414. In 2 Parts.]

[Digby 102, leaf 111, back.] [21 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(Part I. 1)

hanne alle a kyngdom gadrid ysse In goddis lawe, by on assent, For to amende bat was mysse, berfore is ordayned a parlement. Troupe wip glad chere peder went, And falsed stondis ay in drede For ferd of rystwis ingement, ffor to be demed after his dede.

[leaf 112]

In a parliament, only truth should be heard.

8

¶ In doom of parlement ofte is fauour, pat afterward it harmeb grete; Make opere bold take perof sauour To mayntene falsed for bezete.

But often falsebood is maintained for profit's sake.

56	XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414.	PART I.
	Sloupe vn-tyme eft mon swete When it is hot, and glowep as glede. Stonde wip troupe, and smyte an hete, pat god ponke 30w for 30ure dede.	16
	(3)	
The laws require capital punishment for murder and treason.	¶ Lawe 3eueh kyng lyf and leme; To hasty slau3t, and sodeyn fed, Lawe 3eueh no grace to heme;	
	Morpere, ne treson, ne forcast ded, To zeue pere mercy, god forbed;	20
	bat fauour my3t destroye a pede.	
	God in his lawe 3af moyses red, Wip-oute he dampnep pe dede.	24
Law is in- violable in	(4) ¶ In alle kyngdomes, here lawe is wryten;	
in England	For mede ne drede, pey chaunge it nouzt. In Engeland, as all men wyten,	
only is it bought and sold like a beast.	Lawe, as best, is solde and bougt. Eche geer newe lawe is wrougt, And clope falsed in troupe wede.	28
	Fern 3er was lawe; now nes it nou3t. We ben newe fangyl, vnstable in dede.	32
		0 2
To stand up for the com- mons is the	(5) ¶ To stonde wip comons in here ry3t, Is hy3est poynt of charite.	
greatest charity, which God	To quyte pat dede, no man myst,	
alone can reward.	Saue onely god in trynyte.	36
	bous be comons vnkonnyng be,	
	God zeuep zow neuere pe lasse mede. pat mede askep so heyz degre,	
	Nes non bot god may quyte pat dede.	40
	(6)	
VI /2	¶ 3et o wysdom mot 3e lere,	
Hear the complaints of your ten-	Most profyt, and heyest honour; 3 oure tenauntes playntes 3e mot here,	
ants, for they keep your possessions.	ffor pey kepen all 3oure tresour.	44

3e are holden to ben here socour.

Non wiß wrong oßer mysbede:
For-by god made 3ow gouernour,
In goddis ry3t to deme be dede.

48

(7)

¶ Lordis pat han castels and toures,
Alle folk stonden of 30w awe.

pe puple is goddis, and no3t 30ures.

pey paye 30ure rente, to gouerne lawe.
Let no man here ry3t wipdrawe,
Body ne catell hem mysbede.

Who dop so, god sayp in sawe,
He shal haue heuene for pat dede.

Lords, the commons hold you in esteem,

52 and pay you rent; therefore, you ought to protect them.

56

(8)

¶ pe lord pat wole haue good loos,
Stonde fast in troupe, waxe not faynt.

Let troupe gon out of cloos,
pat alle folk may here his playnt.

Let treson be shamely ataynt,
Graunte hem no mercy, ne take no mede;
For mede wip poyson sotyly is maynt;
Mercy my3t cherische hem in here dede.

60 Oppress treason.

64

(9)

¶ 3if a man wolde pe ouertylt,
Caste py dep for to kille,
Let not a-noper by3e his gylt,
pat ¹neuere in dede dede pe ylle.
Dampne no man for non euyl wille
To do pe gylteles blod to blede.
Sette 3oure domes in euene skille;
In drede of god, 3e deme 3oure dede.

Don't make the guiltless suffer for the guilty.

[1 If. 112, bk]

72

(10)

Who skorned hem pat telled hem wit, Is rebell to god, pat repreued reson; pat loued hym most, pat hated hit, Azenst goddis counseill cast a-cheson;

Who scorns the wise, and cherishes fools, rebels against God.

	To worschipe hym pere wit is geson;	
	For fawte of grace, vertue ben gyde.	
	To chastyse fooles is ay in seson,	
	To worschip or shame, after pe dede.	80
	(11)	
	¶ Syngulerte is sotyle þefte.	
	pey calle hit custom, troupe to blende.	
	Whan troupe wole reherce pat efte,	
God will send	pan god wil vengeance wip troupe sende,	84
Vengeance with Truth to	Shamely falsed to shende,	
ruin False- hood.	Drede and stryf among hem shede.	
	To preue who is goddis frend,	
	Comons be witnesse of here dede.	88
	(12)	
Banish	¶ Putte fro court, þat chericheþ vys,	
wicked people from the	pat place of vertues wolde shende.	
court.	Nedeles delys, and nedeles gys,	
	be wastours out of worschip spende.	92
	Wib wit and vysement all amende.	
Prove by .	Lete werk be witnes 3e can 3oure Crede.	
your works that you	Wib corage and hardynes 3 oure reme defende,	
know your creed.	In goddis querell 3e do 3oure dede.	96
	(13)	
A 4A3 C.1		
A truthful man never hides his	A trewe man recchep neuere a dell pouz all pe world his werkis aspyzed;	
works; the false con-	And falsed, for he dob not well,	
spire against truth.	He wolde troupes tonge were tyzed,	100
	For he shulde not telle who hym nyzed.	100
	perfore be fals be false fede,	
	Til troupe in preson be faste alyzede,	
	And dampne troupe for falsed dede.	104
	(Part II. 14)	
When were		
have made peace at	¶ Whanne 3e han made pes wip-ynne, All 3oure reme in vnyte,	
home, strengthen	Vttere-more 3e mot bygynne;	
your marches to keep the	Strenghe 3 oure marche, and kepe he see.	108
863.		

1111: 111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 1111: 11: 11	.10,1. 1.	00
Ofte haue 3e made 3oure fomen fle, Here hatest blod o brod to sprede.		Remember your former valour.
God dop batayle, and not 3e; bou3 3e fau3t, god dop be dede.	112	
(Part II. 15) To ffraunce, kyng Edward had queryle, Hit was his kynde heritage; And 3e han be same style, Wib armes of be selue parage; And 3it 3oure querell dede neuere aswage; bat god hab shewed in 3oure manhede:	116	King Edward made war on France to reclaim his lawful heri- tage, to which you have the same title.
On see, on land, in eche vyage, In dent of swerd, god demed 3 oure dede.	120	
(Part II. 16) Stuffe 3 oure castels in eche coost, Warnestor and folk beder sende;		Fortify your castles;
So mow 3e abate 3 oure enemys bost, But not in trete, in wast to spende. Wheher 3e assayle or defende, On see or land, god 3 ow spede!	124	don't waste your time by treating;
Wip word of wynd, mad neuere 1 werre ende, But dent of swerd endid pe dede.	128	no war is ended by words, but by the sword.
(Part II. 17) I And 3e penke werre to holde, Do after hem [pat] is most wys. Corage of 30ng, and wit of olde, Can telle where pe vauntage lys,	132	[1 leaf 113] The courage of the young, and the ex-
In dede of armes wonnen prys. Whan gloser and flaterer on tapetis trede, For wynnyng þey counseled to cowardys.		perience of the old, will help to gain the victory.
Man wan neuere worschip by here dede. (Part II. 18)	136	
Als ofte as 3e trete, 3oure enemys, ordynaunce pey dist. Vhile 3e trete, ay pey gete.		By treaties your enemies get profit, whereas you lose your right.
3e trete zoure self out of zoure rizt; bere lakkep conscience of knyzt. Lete falsed growe tyl he sede.	140	

nota Ordre of knyst was mad to fyst, Milicia In goddis rist, to ende be dede. 144 &c. (Part II. 19) The order of ¶ Ordre of knyat hardest is knights sur-On see, on lond, on sholde, and depe; passes those of monks, He passeb relegous ywis, bous bey preye and faste wepe. 148 in spite of their prayers; Ofte wib ful wombe relegous slepe, Whan kny3tes han hunger, and moche in drede. be beter in clene lyf bey aust hem kepe, they ought to prove them-As goddis knyat to don here dede. 152 selves God's knights by a clean life. (Part II. 20) ¶ On of two, 3e mot chese: On lond or see or shippes bord, Wib fist ze wynne, wib trete ze lese. 3 oure enemys han bat eure in hord, 156 Your enemies win by words, bat bey wynne wib word 3 oure townes and eastels in lengte and brede; And pat 3e wynne, 3e wynne wib sword. you can win by your swords only. perfore wip swerd do zoure dede. 160 (Part II. 21) · I God zene zow grace his reme to zeme, To cherische be goode, and chastyse be nys. And also serue god to queme, pat zoure werkis preue zow wys. 164 Let your works prove you wise. And in 30w be helpe it lys, be puple in goddis lawe to hede. Do so now, 3e wynne 30w prys And heuene blisse for zoure dede. Amen!1 168

XIV. Man, be warre er the be woo. [Early in 1418.]

[Digby 102, leaf 113.]

[14 stanzas of 8, abab, liebe.]

(1)

The higher the rank of a man, the greater is his The herrere degre, be more wys;
be gretter worschip, be noblere fame;

¹ Amen is struck through in red ink; but whether it is meant to be erased or not, is doubtful.

pe herrere degre, pe more nys;		honour or his disgrace.
be gretter foly, be more blame.	4.	
After foly, folweb be shame;		
Repreued of frendis, and scorned of fo,		
After by dede, ressayue by name.		
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	8	
(2)		
¶ 3if pou be kyngis chaunceller,		Do your duty
Kepe be crowne hool in stat;		at court con- scientiously.
3if bou be kyngis counselere,		
Loke no stones perof abate.	12	
3if oper wolde make be kyng be hate,		If others ca-
Or falsed ouer troupe go,		lumniate you, ask your dis-
Tak by leue, and kisse be 3ate.		charge.
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	16	
(3)		
¶ On a mowntayne, a sete may not be hyd,		A lord's works cannot
Ne lordis werkis in no degre.		the commons
A lordis werkis, wip comouns is kyd,	20	will soon know them.
pat he dop most in preuete. Gouernour of kyngdom or Cyte,	20	
After pey lyue, men deme so.		
For eche a werk, god 13eueh a fe.		
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.	24	[1 lf. 113, bk.]
	24	
(4)		
¶ A symple prest wole synge his masse		Poor priests
While his lyuyng is but smal.		as soon as they get
As summe encrese, serue god þe lasse,		benefices, they become
Wip benefices, ten my3te lyne wip-al,	28	careless.
And fynde pere noper houshold ne halle,		
Ne serue pe parische, but take hem fro.		
Er god suche rekenyng calle,		
Be tyme be war, er pey be wo.	32	
(5)		
¶ Man, do resoun pouz pou be riche,		Be impartial.
Ouer cite or town hast gouernaunce.		- injustices
Loue al crafty folk yliche,		
Mayntene no party in distaunce.	36	

And turne not lawe for couetyse.

Ne contryue tresons pere troup lys,

In tyrauntrie to robbe and slo.

Er 3 oure werkis preue 3 ow nys,

Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(9)

64

68

Give everybody his due.

¶ 3if 3e wole haue pes of 3ong and old,
Let eche man haue þat is ry3t.

Let comon lawe his cours hold,
Euene mesure, mett, and wy3t.

Man, bouz bou be moche of myzt,
Mende fawtes er bou make mo.
For bat ze hid, god seeb in syzt.
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

72

80

(10)

¶ Eche lord knowe his astate,
Lyue on hat god hym lent.

pat borweh moche, he geteh hate.
Spende waste, passyng his rent,
For suche a kyngdom hab ben shent.
Stryf wih comons, threp, and thro,
To brynge hat in amendement,
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

76 Don't let your expenses exceed your income.

(11)

Whanne holichirche suffreb symonye,
And is ¹wib hym enchaunted,
And lawe of land suffreb vsurye,
Vnkyndely synne, and shameles haunted,
And vicious folk auaunsed and dawnted,
And vertues flemed fro eche a wro:
In bat kyngdom, god hab vengeaunce graunted.
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

[1 leaf 114]]

84 If vice is advanced in church and law, and virtue oppressed,

(12)

In a kyngdom, what makep stryf,
No man standes of oper awe?

Vnkyndely synne, and tyrauntes lyf;
Vsurye, symonye, and letter of lawe,
And holy chirche rebell to goddis sawe.

To kepe his comaundement, pey say no.

Fro pat kyngdom, god his loue wil drawe.

Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

92

100

88

God will withdraw his love from our land.

(13)

¶ 3if eny folk forgeb gyles,
Wib falsed by deb to cast,
Pulle vp be stakes, and breke be styles;
Lete hem no more styke so faste.

If anybody attempt upon your life, try to escape and stand upon your guard.

To caste before, er after fal.

(3)

¶ I lykne pe nekke, moche of myst, pat body and heued to-gydre knyt, To a Iustice pat demep ry3t;

For, purgh it, comep all words of wyt.

3if a man take ordre of kny3t, be coler in be nekke het;

And feloun forfete in befte or fyst, be iugement in be nekke set.

(4)

¶ Now I lykne mannys brest, To presthod in good degre, Most in perile, lest in rest

For besynesse in spiritualte;

In penaunce and in preyer prest; Meke of spirit in pouerte Holde hospytal to goddis gest,

And fede be pore in charyte.

(5)

¶ be shuldres and be bakebon, I likne to lordis of be lond; be armes, to kny3tes, to fende fro fon; be squyers, I likne to be hondes; be fyngres, to gemen bat byfore gon Wip bent bowes and bry3t brondes.

While all bys lymes arn wel at on, be body, in good plyt it stondes.

(6)

¶ Mannys rybbes, y likne now— Flesch and skyn in body hydes,— To men of lawe is to alow, pat kepes in loue bobe sydes. Rybbes, to resoun bou; bey bow, So lawe dob: ofte in fauour bydes,

Tyl ground be sou; t pere lawe dop grow, Ende in charite, pat no man chydes. POEMS (OXF.).

his neck,

to a just judge; 20

24

his breast, to a good priest

28

[leaf 114, bk.]

32

his shoulders and backbone, to lords; his arms, to knights;

36 his fingers, to yeomen;

40

his ribs, to men of law;

44

(7)

his thighs, to merchants;	¶ I likne be thies, flesch and bon,	
,	pat beren pe body quantite,	
	To marchaundes, in perile ride and gon,	
	Bryngen wynnyng, gold, and fee,	5
	Make hize houses of lym and ston,	
	Mayntene burgh, toun, and cyte,	
	Welpe and worschip in here won,	
	And good houshold of gret plente.	5
	(8)	
his legs, to handicrafts-	¶ Mannys leggis, likne y may	
men;	To all craftes pat worche wip handes,	
	For al pe body beren pay,	
	As a tre put berep wandes.	6
his feet, to ploughmen:	be feet, to lykne, y wole assay,	
prougamen;	To alle trewe tylyers of landes,	
	be plough, and all bat dygge in clay;	
	Alle be world on hem standes.	6.
	(9)	
his toes, to	The toes of be mennys feet,	
servants.	bo y likne to trewe hyne	
	pat trauayle bope in drye and weet,	
	In burst, in hungere, and in pyne,	68
	In het, in cold, in snow and slet,	
	Many hize none, er pey dyne,	
	And wip good mete selde met;	
	But after howsel pey drynke no wyn.	7:
	(10)	
A man with-	Toes helpeb man fro fal to ryse.	
out toes can- not rise or	He may not stonde, pat hap no toon,	
stand;	Lepe ne renne, ne ryde in syse,	
	Wrastle ne fy3te, ne put þe ston.	76
master and	3if seruant be maystere refuse,	
servant depend on	be seruant lyuyng sone were gon.	
each other.	And maystres, bouz bey ben wyse,	
	Wip-out seruant lyue not alon.	80

(11)

¶ I likne be wombe, and bat wib-ynne,
To botemeles purs, bat moche dob take;

I liken the womb to a bottomless purse.

To couetous, no wyket pynne;

To glotoun, be garner wyd open make.

84

be wombe preyed be moup to blynne: "bou etest and drynkest, but y ake."

The womb asked the mouth to leave off eating.

"To slepe," quod be eyze, "we may not wynne be wrecched wombe so dob vs wake."

88

(12)

¶ "We dulle of heryng," quod be ere.

and so did the limbs.

"We dase for dronken," quod pe ey3e:
"I wende but o mone pere were,

And me bouste two y seyse."

92

Quod be handis, "fro moup may we not vs were."

Quod 1 pe moup, "y drank while y my3te drye."

[1 leaf 115]

"Allas," quod be feet, "all we bere,

And 3oure bargayn dere abye,"

96

(13)

¶ The handes and feet, be moup gan preye, "Let vs thre dayes reste,

They begged him to rest three days,

Wip alle pyn opere lymes pleye,

Wip felaschip, frend, and geste."

100

pe moup, in anger he dede saye, "pes pre dayes do your best. with which the mouth complied.

Al pat tyme, nyst ne daye,

No mete ne drynk come in my brest."

104

(14)

¶ Thre dayes the moup dede faste,
Tyl wombe calde pe moup vnkynde.

After that time, they called him unkind, and asked him to eat again.

"Vnkynde² thyn handes, are pey faste? [2 % for Vnbynde]
Stere, and lete pe mylle grynde."

108

Quod pe eren, "oure heryng is at pe laste." Quod eyen, "we dase, and waxe blynd."

Quod handes and feet, "oure strenge is paste,"

Quod brayn and herte, "vs wantes mynde."

(15)

¶ Quod be moube, "3e playne whyle y ete; The mouth said, "You complain And while y faste, 3e make gret doel." both of my Quod hondes and feet, "also we gete eating and my fasting."
They answered, "We are well as pat pou spendest eche a deel. 116 We may play, swynke, and swete, long as you observe While moupe in mesure makep his mele. moderation." For mesure kepeb kynde hete, And al bat tyme we fare wele." 120 (16)Nota ¶ I likne a kyngdom in good astate, bene To stalworke man, mysty in hele. I liken a While non of his lymes oper hate, kingdom in a good He is my;ty, wib a-nober to dele. 124 condition to a healthy 3if eche of his lymes wib oper debate, man; while his He waxeb syk, for flesch is frele. limbs are of one accord, he is brave; His enemys wayte erly and late, if they quarrel, he falls ill. In his feblenesse, on hym to stele. 128 (17)¶ And hed were fro be body stad, All limbs stand in need Noter partye were set at noust, of one another. And body wipoute armes sprad. Were armes wip-oute handis ou; t? 132 Ne handis, but bey fyngres had? Wipoute fingere, what were wrougt? bes lymes makeb hed ful glad, And al be body, and it be sourt. 136 (18)¶ 3if a man hurte by fynger or too, If you allow a man to But bou make deffens o ferre, hurt your finger, he will take Leg or arm may take be fro; your arm: To body or hed, auntre hym herre. 140 Ensample to kyngdom, y set this so: if our friends be destroyed, And oure frendis be distroyed by werre, we must take heed of our enemies. ban kepe be wisely fro by foo; For wip all his myst he wole come nerre. 144

(19)

¶ God saue bis man is so deuysed, Hed and body, all lymes in kynde.

But bere as vertues ben despysed,

To preye to god, bey waste here wynde.

148

God saves a man whose

limbs are in full harmony.

God leue pat synne may be refused,

And of dedly synnes vs vnbynde, And eche stat in his kynde be vsed.

God, of his mercy, have vs in mynde! Amen! 152

XVI. A remembraunce of LIJ folges. [A.D. 1419]

[Digby 102, leaf 115.]

[9 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc ddd c.]

Oke how Flaundres dob fare wib his folyhede! Durste no man dygge after troube wib no manere toles.

Look how Flanders fares with her foolish. ness!

To wynne 2 wrongly wele, wod bey gan wede, But werkis of wys men were cast vnder stoles. Glosers counseled lordis for to take mede.

To maken hem riche, and here lordis pore foles.

Whan be souereyns were set, here sogettis to drede,

be glosers skulked away, for shame of here sooles. 8

Falsed shal neuere ben ateynt

Til Iuge here eche mannys pleynt.

Redresse, and make an ende,

Or ellys to mercy bende; Make hem kyssen and be frende,

bat were fon feynt.

12

16

20

¶ Fyfty folyes ben, and two;

Alle bo y wole mynne among.

To triste in trete to his fo

pat hap begyled hem ofte and long,

And hate hem bat telle hym so,

And wilfully wolle suffre wrong:

There are 52 follies.

He is a fool who trusts his enemies, and hates good counsellors;

1 I printed this, from my copy of the MS., in Englisch Studien 1897, in forgetfulness of Dr. Kail.-F. J. F.

[2 lf. 115, bk.] They followed the fools, and despised the wise.

	It is worthy he smerte and be wo,	
	pat of his owen skyn wole kerue a thong.	
who buys	pat chepen moche, and not han to paye,	
more than he can pay;	And wip his lord to homly wole playe,	24
who swears	Swere moche, and not be trowed;	
and boasts beyond mea-	Boste moche, and not allowed;	
who threat-	Threte alle men, and neuere on bowed:	
ens all, but conquers none.	All are folyes, pat y say.	28
	(3)	
He is a fool, who begins	¶ He is a fool, pat werre wole wake,	
war without money;	pat may not maynten it wip mede,	
money,	And so moche vndertake,	
	pat wot wel he may not spede,	32
who makes	And of his neyzebour his enemy make	
his neigh- bour his enemy for	For a straunge mannys dede;	
a stranger's sake;	And he pat mesure wole forsake,	
bune,	And nedles put hym-self in drede;	36
who reck-	Of mannys deb haue no roube,	
lessly kills a man;	But hate hem pat tellen hym troupe,	
	Loue hym pat cherische hym in synne,	
	And suche games bygynne	40
	Where pat he wot he may not wynne,	
	But besyen hym in sloupe.	
	(4)	
	¶ He is a fool, pat no good can,	
who will not	Ne non wole lere, but slow in dede.	44
listen to good advice;	A gret fool, y holde pat man	
who does not	pat of his enemys hap no drede.	
enemies. With such	purgh suche foly, Flaundres be-gan;	
follies Flanders	Of after perile bey tok non hede.	48
began.	Hit is worthy, he ete bred of bran,	
	pat wip floure his foo wil fede.	
	And truste al in gloser charmes,	
	In hyndryng in worschip of armes,	52
	And lette lawe it mot not syt,	
	And conscience away flyt,	
	May brynge a lord, er pat he wyt,	P
	Emyddis grete harmes.	56

¶ Flaundres was be richest land, and meriest to mynne; Now is it wrappid in wo, and moche welfe raft. For defaute of Iustice, and singulere to wynne, bey were rebell, to ryse craft agen craft.

Here lord had part of be foly bey were wounden ynne; For-thy he les his lordshipe, and here fraunchise raft. Here enemys lawhen hem to skorne, and seyn, 'for synne, Of here banere of grace, god broken hab be shaft.' 64

When prelat is forbode to preche, No trewe man troube dar teche, Encresyng of temperalte Suspende spiritualte: What land is gouerned in pat degre,

May wayte after wreche.

(6)

¶ I holde hym a fool, bou; he be wys, bat spekeb among men of name pat at his wysdom set no prys, But skorne hym, and don blame; And he pat tellep where peryle lys,

And gete no bonk, but harm and shame; And he pat pleyneb, y holde hym nys,

pat get no mendys, but dowble grame. By bese poyntes fflaundres was lest;

Now is it out of rule and of rest. Drede is here chef gayte. So eche man on hem bayte, pat zet bey honge in awayte

Of a newe conquest.

(7)

¶ He pat myst thryue, and nel not thee, Ne his owen harmes knawe, Apert ne in preuytee Serue god for loue ne awe,

Ne gouerne wel his owen degre, Ne rule hymself in rystwys lawe:

Whan wyse men fro hym fle, pen god his grace wole fro hem drawe.

She was the richest land: now woe has befallen her. They were greedy of 60 profit;

> their prince had part in their folly, and so he lost his authority.

[leaf 116] Where priests are forbidden to preach, and truthful men, to speak 68 the truth, there God will send vengeance.

He is a fool who gives advice where he is not listened to.

By such things 80 Flanders has been ruined.

84

76

Whoever does not thrive. by his own fault,

88

will be forsaken by 92 God.

Can a man who gives his fortune to glozers, be saved by them? pat moche wynnep, and no thyng wole haue,
But zeue it awey, to nedeles pat craue,
Azens conscience despit
Borwe moche, and neuere quyt:
When god for pat gylt smyt,
What glosere can pat wounde saue?

(8)

He is to be thought a fool, who is led by his own will, and does not hear reason. T pat freek may wel be holden a fool, bat wayueb wit, and worcheb by wille, 100 And skippe into sclaundre scol, And scorne hym bat telleb hym skylle; And lyue in Lenton as in 300l, His flesch in foly to fulfille. 104 bou; be dotard deve in dool, be rystwys nel not rewe his ylle. Who so wil not knowe his awen astat, Ne deliuere chekkys, er pat he be mat, 108 He shal have worldis wondryng, And his soule hyndryng, And ay in paynes pondryng; To mende panne, is to late. 112

(9)

Of all people, there are but four that take no meed: Illness, Sorrow, Death, and Dread.

Nota

¶ Of all folk vppon fold, y fynde but foure trewe, pat don here deuere dewely, and take no mede:

Syknes is oon, and sorw dop sewe,
pe thridde hat 'dep,' and pe fierpe 'drede.'

116

bey clayme vs by custom, for bey oure kyn knewe,
And endid wip oure aunsetres tyl bey to erpe 3ede.

bey spare prynce ne pore, old ne newe,

For pey crepe in-to his cors, and clope hem in his wede.

Drede bryngep man to buxomnes;

Sorwe of herte makep synnes les;

Syknes, brepe stekenyng,

And bowe to a bekenyng,

And bryngep hem to rekenyng,

Tyl dep all redresse.

XVII. Youe that god loueth.

[Digby 102, leaf 116.]

[25 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

That ilke man wole lerne wel
To loue god wip al his my3t,
pat loue in his herte fele.
pere god dop loue, loue pou ry3t;

here god dob loue, loue bou ry3t
There god dob hate euerydele,
Hate it bobe day and ny3t,
3eue hym 'nober mete ne mele,

But flyt hym fere out of 30ure sy3t.

(2)

¶ Many gret[e] causes is,
To loue god, why men ou;te.

He shop vs lyk ymage his,

And wip his dep, fro pyne vs boust,

And 3ut, bou3 we don ofte amys,
For eche a gylt he beteb vs nou3t;

And we penke to amende, he profrep to kys.

Man, of loue he hap besouzt.

(3)

¶ 3if a lord 3eue fee or rent For to do a gret office,

To serue hym wel is pyn atent, For thy profyt, but not for his,

For he fynde pe py vaunsement;

by loue vppon be profyt lys.

Suche worldly louers are gostly blent;

Suche loue to god is cold as yse.

(4)

¶ 3if bou serue god for helle drede, Or loue god for his blisse, bat loue is worth no parfyt mede:

bou [sechest] thy profyt, and not hisse.

4 Love what God loves,

and hate what he hates.

[1 lf. 116, bk.]

Man ought to love God from many reasons.

12

16

You love a lord only for your own profit's sake.

20

Such love does not please God.

Nor is your love perfect if you serve God from fear of hell or from hope of heaven.

74 XV	II. Love what God loves, and hate what He	hates
	To pyne ne blis, take non hede,	
	But loue god, for good he is.	
Nota de	Suche loue to god, his erande dop spede,	
amore dei &c.	And plese; best to god y-wys.	32
	(5)	
Worldly men	¶ Fleschly man may do wele	
even do the 7 works of	be seuene werkes of mercy bat god bed:	
charity from such love.	3eue pore folk mete and mele,	
	Herberwe, drynk, clope, and fed,	30
	For syngulere profyt, eche a dele,	
	For drede of pyne, and couetys of mede.	
	Loue god ouer all, for good he is;	
	To pyne ne blisse, take non hede.	40
	(6)	
You must	¶ 3if bou sette loue in bat degre,	
love God because he	To love god, for he be wrougt,	
loves you.	pan make bou hym as he dede be,	
	pan loue for loue, euene is brougt.	44
	3if bou loue god, for he made be fre,	
	pat dyzed for the, to blisse pe bouzt,	
	pan dyze pou for hym, as he dyzed for be;	
	3ut heuene blisse, bou quytest hym nou3t.	48
	(7)	
	I 3it o thyng pere is byhende,	
	Man, pat god askep of the:	
God says,	"Alle worldys delys, fro byn herte wende,	
with all thy heart, and	Wip alle pyn herte, loue pou me.	52
turn thy thoughts	by swete pouztes [pou] me sende;	
away from worldly	For worldis goodis, myn are he.	
riches.	Loue me gostly, pat am by frende,	
	panne al euyl shal fro pe fle.	56
	(8)	
	¶ pat loue me gostly, y can assay,	
	For gostly loue in herte y sou3t.	
	Do worldly thyng fro byn herte away,	
	And have me principal in by boust.	60

Be lord, and have richesse, bou may;		Thou mayst
Worldis richesse, for man was wrougt.		have estates,
Gostly loue, pat is my pray;	2.4	nota but give me
But worldly goodis, in heuene comep nouzt.	64	thy love.
(9)		
¶ For gold and syluer, and precyous stones,		All the trea- sures of the
Swetnes of floures, erpely bewte,		world would
pe shrynes wip all seyntes bones,		
In heuene were foul felbe to se.	68	be loathsome in Heaven.
Tyl body and soule agen arn ones		211 22001011
Mad parfyt in claryte,		
Saue god hym self, in heuene wones,		Mankind shall possess
be principal, mankynde shal be."	72	them till doomsday."
(10)		
¶ 'God! how may y, man, bygynne		'Lord, how
Wip myn herte to loue be?'		may I begin to love thee?
"Repente, and wylne no more synne,		"Repent thy
So mowe we ^{1 2} frendis be,	76	sins. 1 MS. 3e
Good soule, sybbe to my kynne;		[2 leaf 117]
For y made it lik to me.		
Mankynde y tok, a mayden wip-ynne,		
So, gostly and bodyly, breperen be we.3	80	³ MS. wet
(11)		
¶ Who loueb god, he wil bygynne		
For to folwe goddis lore;		
Loke where he dede wrongly wynne,		
Make amendis, azen restore.	84	
3 oure loue, fro me 3e parten o twynne		Thou with-
For worldis worship, ryches in store,		drawest thy love from me
Heuene 3 ates 3 e steken and pynne;		by striving for worldly
pat ye shulde saue, 3e haue forlore.	88	honour and riches.
47.0		
(12)		
¶ To gete loue bus bygynne:		
Wip clene herte, and swete pouzt,		Don't depart from truth;
Wip trewe tong, not falsely wynne,	0.0	don't lie, or
Ne stele, ne flatre, ne ly 3e nou 3t.	92	steal, or flatter."

	Do ry3twys dede, out and ynne,	
	Loke by werkys be euene wrouzt;	
Do alms and penance, and	Do almes and penaunce, and leue by synne:	0.0
stop sinning.	Wip pese pre loue is bouzt."	96
	(13)	
	¶ God spekeb to man, and lerneb lore,	
	be comaundementis and be Crede.	
	"3eue me by loue, y aske no more,	
	Wip al by herte, in loue and drede.	100
It thou wilt	And pou nylt zeue it me, warne me byfore;	
not give me thy love, set	Sette pris to selle it; loue and bede,	
a price on it; I'll offer my-	I wole 3cue the myself perfore.	
self for it.	Where mystest bou have a beter mede?	104
	(14)	
If thou wilt	¶ And pou nelt zeue ne selle it me,	
not sell it me,	Azens me pou wilt debate,	
	þan wil y gon away fro þe,	
I shall pay	And zelde to be hate for hate.	108
thee hate for hate,	My face wip loue shalt pou not se,	
and damn	But steke be wipoute heuene 3ate,	
thee.	Fro alle vertues and charyte,	
	Wib helle houndes, in endeles date.	112
	(15)	
I formed thee	I Haue y by loue, so may bou quyte	
in my image;	I mad be lik ymage to me;	
	And 3if be benke bat was to lyte,	
I died for	panne penk, y dyed on rode tre.	116
thee; I don't	bou; bou trespas, y do not smyte,	
punish thee for thy sins,	But byd 3if bou wilt mendid be.	
but I give thee time to	And bou be lost, whom wiltow wyte?	
repent.	Is it long on me or be?	120
	(16)	
	¶ Discrecioun of 3 ong and old	
	Of alle pynge nouşt ouşte.	
Love can be	Of alle pat may be boust and sold,	
bought with love only.	Loue for loue is euenest bouzte.	124

,		
Whan worldis love dop fayle and folde,		Though all worldly love
Goddis loue fayleb noust.		fail, the love of God will
Trewe loue makep men be bolde;	100	ever last.
Wip loue, felawship to-gydre is brougt.	128	
(17)		
¶ ffor loue, god com fro heuene toure, In mayden Mary tok mankynde.		From love to man, I, God, took
ffor oure swete, he drank ful soure.		manhood.
Where my3t we trewere loue fynde?	132	
His loue passeb worldis tresoure,	102	
3af syst in helle to gostly blynde.		
And we wole knytte his loue to oure,		
ffor sope, pat knot shal neuere vnbynde.	136	
(18)		
¶ "Haue y by loue, so may bou gete		With love
pat loue wole by soule saue,		thou wilt gain Heaven.
Among myn angels haue a sete,		
In ioye of heuene, as seyntes haue.	140	
3if bou nelt 1y wol be brete,		[1 lf. 117, bk.]
In helle pyne be fendis knaue.		
Wib by conscience bou trete,		
Wheper is be leuere for to haue.	144	
(19)		
¶ And pou madde in py mood,		If thou re-
To werne me be loue bou has,		fusest to love me, I shall
I wole caste on be myn herte blod,		torment thee
	148	111 110114
To bere witnesse pou forfetest gras, And my vengeance, pat is so wood,	140	
Wip helle houndis in fyre pe chas.		
bou hast fre wille, knowest euyH and good:	152	
Chese where wyltow take by plas.	102	
(20)		
¶ And bou of by loue daungere make,		I have no profit of thy
What may thy loue profyte me?		love.
And you; you woldest me forsake,		
Out of my lordschipe pou my3t not fle.	156	

78 XV	VII. Love what God loves, and hate what	He hates.
	Angels bry3t, and deueles blake, In helle and heuene, my lordschipes be. pere be no mo wayes to take; Is loue or hate more profyt to be?	160
	(21)	
Whoever loves the world, shall lose more than he wins.	He wole be hate, and zeue pyne for synne. Loue me! y am god, by frende,	164
	And oure loues shal neuere twynne.	168
True love need not fear enemies."	(22) ¶ Wheher trewe love go or sende, Hym thar not tary in his dede. When mede hah leve to stande byhynde, hanne trewe love, his erande may spede. bou; trewe love have lityl to spende, Evere he fyndeh a frend at nede, hat fro his foon wole hym fende. Who so is loved, hym thar not drede."	172 176
	(23)	
	¶ God sayþ, "y haue mercyes to dele, þat wole amende, no more do mys. My mercyes, þousandes mo ken fele	
Our salvation was written with Christ's heart-blood on his body, and sealed	pan pousandis worldis wikkidnes." His herte blod wrot oure hele, And Ihesus body, pe parchemyn is; Wip trewe loue he prented oure sele,	180
with true- love.	pat is heritage of our blis.	184
There is a herb called true-love, which is likened to Jesus.	(24) ¶ pere is an herbe pat hattep 'trewe loue,' And by name it hap no pere, Is lykned to Ihesus, y may proue:	100
	His handes and feet, be leves were;	188

XVIII. The Declaring of Religion: what it is. A.D. 1421. 79

His herte was wip a spere purgh-shoue, Mannys loue was hym so dere. What soule is syk, lay pat herbe aboue,

Hit makeb hool al y-fere.

Apply truelove to sick 192 souls.

(25)

¶ God biddip vs do no pynges but two: In loue and drede to hym bende;

Lede by soule, lustes fro,

World and flesch, and fro be fende.

Ihesus herte was cleued so,

To lete out trewe loue to his frende.

In that blisse, god, graunte vs go, pere trewe loue wonep wipouten ende! 196

God grant us to go where true-love dwells.

XVIII. The declaryng of religioun. [A.D. 1421]

[Digby 102, leaf 117, back.]

[24 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Who pat wole knowe condicion Of parfyt lyf in alle degre:

God is foundour of religion, Obedyent to charyte.

Swete pouzt in deuocion, Is weddid ¹to chastite,

In brennyng contemplacion, be hizest lyf of spiritualte.

God is the founder of religion.

[1 leaf 118]

Contemplation is the highest degree of religiousness.

(2)

The goode lyueres in spiritualte,

be worldly lyueres hem dob hate,

Wip occupacioun of temperalte Dryuep relegeon out at pe 3 ate

For besynesse of vanyte,

Vaynglory, and hyge astate.

pat bus chaungen here degre, bey come to heuene, neuere or late. Worldly men neglect religion, and turn to 12 temporality.

	(3)	
Religion is	a ¶ What is religion in mynde?	
in a clean	In clene herte is soule o prys;	
heart;	Out of praldom dop vnbynde;	
	A louer of vertues, a hatere of vys.	2
the soul is	Eche soule is parfyt clerk of kynde	4
wise	In hy3e discrecion, and wys.	
unless it be	Of soules men may no fooles funds	
governed by the flesh.	But assente to be flesch, and make hym nys.	2
	, sold, and make nym mys.	2
	(4)	
Religion is a		
the battle	Discomfites has enemy.	
tation,	3if temptacions hym assayle,	
	pere he hath be victory.	2
and a true workman in	Religeon is trewe trauayle,	
the service	In goddis seruyce neuere werye.	
0,7041	Haue mede wip martyres, he may not fayle,	
	hat euere is redy for to dyze.	3:
	(5)	
Works with-	. ,	
out discre-	¶ Werkys wip-oute discrecion, Vaynglory in staat is brouzt;	
shrift without	A B B B C B	
contrition,		0.0
and prayers	In skorne pe sacrament pey sou; ; And preyere wip-oute deuocion,	36
without devotion, dis-		
please God.	body belt brede, god nereh nem nouse:	
	he lippes turne preyers vp so doun,	4.0
	pat spekep oper pan herte pouzt.	40
	(6)	
	¶ Cherische no vices in 30ure warde	
	To serue god in good atent,	
Be not too	And non wip other be to harde,	
our fellow-	bat ben professed in 3oure couent;	44
hey might	bey myste for-benke it afterward	- 1
egret to have aken orders.	bey tok be abyte, and wolde repente;	
	bey lese of god a gret reward	
	Whan wille fro religeon is wente.	48

XVIII.	The	Declaring	of Religion:	what	it is	s. A.D. 1421.	81
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52	
	Whoever wil
	save his soul, should think
	of his birth and of his
56	grave.
	Noblemen, remember
	that all men
	Adam and Eve.
60	23100
64	
	Don't envy others their
	better life, but emulate
	them. [1 lf. 118, bk.]
68	
72	
	Avoid wicked
	company,
76	
, ,	
	keep with the
80	wise.
G	
	56 60 64 72 76

(11)

Men of Religion,	Religeous, be war, wip whom 3e stonde, Wip gentyles or folk pat worldly is, pat 3e grype not hand in honde.	
when taking	When 3e take leue, loke not 3e kys.	ي ي
leave, you may kiss	Man to man hem thar not wonde,	84
men, but not women.	Ne woman to woman no peryle ne is;	
	But man to woman myste breke be bonde;	
	In towche is susspessioun of mys.	88
	in toward is susspectfully of mys.	00
	(12)	
	¶ Suche towches not 3e byde,	
Such touch-	Wolde buffete pe soule, and wounde wip-ynne,	
wound your own soul,	3eue opere cause, pat stonde bysyde,	
and give others cause	To wene it were a bargayn of synne.	92
of suspicion.	Towches, in custom, pouztis hide;	
	pan sclaundre and shame nyll not twynne.	
	With conscience, sclaundre and shame dop chide;	
Nota de	To showe opert he wol be-gynne.	96
religione,		
&c.	(13)	
	With mekenesse 3e may heuene gete.	
	Dispyse non in low degre.	
Refuse hon-	Resceyue no worschip, ne hy3e sete,	
ours and dignities.	pat pryde go bytwen god and pe,	100
	Wolde make to hem self forgete,	
	For worldis ryches and vanyte.	
Beware of	War for dronkenesse of drynkes grete,	
drunkenness and gluttony.	Fro glotry of metes of gret daynte.	104
	73.43	
	(14)	
	¶ To religeon mekely bende,	
	To serue god in loue and drede.	
Don't care about news;	To herkene tydynges, not 3e wende,	
acout news,	Ne bokes of vanyte, not 3e rede.	108
write letters to friends	Resceyue no lettere, ne non out sende,	
only.	But hit be for 3 oure hous nede,	
	Oper to kyn or certeyn frende,	
	In goodnes 3 oure erande for to spede.	112

(15)

¶ Kepe zoure wacche and seruyce dewe, And rule of habyte clenely 3eme; And fille zoure hertes wib good vertue, And wikked vyces fro 30w 3e fleme; But loke deuocion growe ay newe. Be suche wip-ynne, as ze outward seme. Good aungel and wikked bobe 30w sewe,

Be within, as holy as you look outside. Angels, good 120 and bad, note all your acts.

116

Do all your

duties.

(16)

And wryten zoure dedes, pat shal zow deme.

¶ Wacche not outrage in wast despence, Fro hard to nyce, by fflesch to fede. Wib bischop or shryfte 3e mowe despence, Fro hard to hardere soure lyf to lede. Withstonde temptacions, make defence; be moo ze withstonde, be more mede. And 3e wib seyntes will have reuerence, pan moste ze countrefete here dede.

You may grow perfect 124 without a bishop's or a confessor's special orders. The more you withstand temp-

128 tations, the more you will be rewarded.

132

136

140

144

(17)

¶ Kepe 1sylence, whyder 3e byde or go, Fro wordis of vanyte, zoure lippes steke. Speke faire to frend and fo, For fayre speche dob wrabbe breke. pat dop wrong, deme so. Lete not vengeance, by wrappe wreke. Vengeance is goddis, he demeb bo In werk and word, all bat men speke.

[1 leaf 119] Refrain from vain words.

Blame sins indulgently.

(18)

¶ In rule of religeon is ordeyned 3 ore: Byze no thyng to selle and wynne. Marchaunt and religeous, on mot be forbore; bey may not wone, on herte wibynne. Ne kepe no iewels ne propre in store; pat nes no religeous, but dedly synne In fleschly delices, and loue it more To parte by loue and god atwynne.

Don't buy and sell for profit's sake.

(19)

	(13)	
Don't set	That penkep good pouzt in sylence,	
those who lead a con- templative	bey speken to god in specyale.	
life,	How mow 3e lette hem, for conscience,	
to worldly work.	Calle hem to werkis general?	148
WOIK.	Summe bidden, in vertue of obedience,	
	Contemplatyf in spirituale;	
	To religeon they don a gret defence,	
	pat bryngen hem to werkis temperale.	152
	(20)	
Nobleness	¶ Hy3e astate, ne gentyl blod,	
and riches bring nobody	Brynget no man to heuene blisse.	
to Heaven,	Gret hors ne iewel, ne browded hood,	
	Nes no cause of holynesse,	156
but humility	But pore of spirit and make of mood.	
and righte- ousness may do so.	3eue god by soule, and eche man hisse.	
40 00.	Gret lordschipe, ne myche good,	
	Nes no cause of sykernesse.	160
	(21)	
A monk's	¶ Tonsure, abyte, ne no wede,	
habit, fasting, prayers,	Nes no cause of religeon,	
and alms- deeds don't	Ne wakyng, ne fastyng, ne almesdede,	
prove religi- ousness,	Ne preyere ne oreson,	164
Cacinosy	But pe herte perto take hede,	
	Wip werkys of discrecion.	
but devotion and contem-	Deuocion makeb soules to spede	
plation do so.	Wip werkis of contemplacion.	168
	(22)	
	¶ Religeon is most meke	
	In abyte, of alle vertues floures.	
	Richesse, ne worldis worschipe, seke,	
	But offre to god alle honoures.	172
	Richesse and worschipe make soules syke	-,-
Let your vir-	In vaynglory and sharp[e] shoures.	
tues be the wax, and de-	Make vertues be wax, deuocioun be wyke,	
votion the wick, to shine	To brenne brist in heuene boures.	176
in Heaven.	,	

(23)

¶ Iustice is religeon in sete, pat demeb rist in all degre.

Justice is religion in the tribunal.

And queste is religeon, troube to trete;

Beueb eche man, bat his shulde be.

180

A child may wib his fader plete, And gut kepe his charyte,

And of his kyng blameles gete Lawe is so genty # and so fre.

184

(24)

¶ bous summe of thy breberen don a trespas, He wole amende and do no moo.

If one of your brethren trespass,

Parauenture bou art in be same cas, Or after, myst ben in suche two.

188

Loke not bat bou hym chace, Ne sclaundre hym not to have shame and wo. be not harsh to him,

but pray God

Pray god forzeue hym of his grace,

to forgive him, 192 and beware of the same

slip.

And kepe be wel bou do not so.

XIX. [God's Appeal to Man.]

[Digby 102, leaf 119, back.]

[14 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

In my conscience I fynde,

And in my soule I here and see,

To repreue man bat is vnkynde,

Goddis wordis bis may be: "Man of resoun, haue in mynde,

I made be lyk ymage to me;

For love y hadde to mankynde,

I toke manhed, lyk to be.

4 God may say, "Man, remember that I took manhood from love of thee.

(2)

¶ Mannys loue y 3erned 3ore; pat loue was in myn herte souzt.

Mannys loue sat me so sore,

Nas neuere bargayn derrere boust.

12

Why dost thou not love me?	Man! is pe laft no loue in store? What is pe cause pou louest me nouzt? Telle me zif y myzte don more.	
	What is byhynd, pat lakkep pe ouzt?	16
	(3)	
	¶ For by loue y meked me lowe,	
I died for	And dyzed on be rode tre.	
thee.	Answere, man, and be aknowe:	
What didst	Shewe what bou suffred for me;	20
thou suffer for me?	For suche seed as pou dost sowe,	
	perof shal pyn heruest be,	
	In heuene or helle to repe and mowe.	
	As pou deserved, fong by fee.	24
	(4)	
	¶ Man, to be y make my mone:	
	I bougt be fro pyne to blisse;	
	Melte pyn herte, as hard as stone;	
Do penance	pouz it be late, amende by mysse.	28
for thy sins.	In wrappe, pouz pou be fro me gon,	
Turn, and I will kiss thee.	Turne aşayn, y wol þe kysse.	
will kind thec.	To make me frendis of my fon,	
	perfore y 3 af my lyf for hysse.	32
	(5)	
Don't strive	¶ Be war, and loue not worldis good	
to get worldly treasures.	To gete wip wrong, and calle it thyn.	
	Man, haue it in by mood,	
	bou shalt rekene; for alle is myn.	36
I bought thee, thou shouldst	Why bouşte y be on the rood?	
serve me.	For pou shulde serue, and be myn hyne.	
	Make not myn argumentis wood,	
	To caste be fro blisse to pyne.	40
	(6)	
Thy sins pain	¶ Man, why turmentest bou me so?	
me.	Euere by synnes don encresce,	
Thy vices	And by vices waxen moo,	
grow; thy virtues wane	And by vertues wanen lesse.	44

Thenke good y be, thy foo.		Remember thy God, and
Whanne wylt bou of by synne ses,		have mercy on thy soul.
Haue mercy on by soule woo,		on ony count
Or haue mynde on me, and 3 eue me pes?	48	
(7)		
		I humbled
To suffre dep, y meked me,		myself to die for thee,
Fro pyne to blisse, by soule to wynne.		therefore
To me so shuldest bou meke be,	52	thou shoulds give up thy
Leue and forbere by synne.	04	sins.
Fro my lordschipe my3t bou not fle, Heuene ne helle, ne see wib-ynne,		Thou canst not flee from my power.
But where and whenne my wille be,		my power.
by body and soule to parte o twynne.	56	
je body will soule to parte o twyffire.	00	
(8)		
¶ Thou; y haue graunted be grace		
To knowe bobe good and ylle,		
Wyte by self in eche a place,		
Wheper bou wylt by self spille.	60	
bou; flesch and world and fend [be] chas,		
Temptacion profre pe tille,		Resist tempt
bou myst forbere and noust trespas;		ations.
I lente be knoweleche and fre wille.	64	
(9)		
¶ In syknesse and pouerte,		Thank me
Glade perynne, and panke me all.		for sickness and poverty.
be more bou hast berof plente,		
be nerre be, be y shall.	68	
pan say, 'Lord, kepe me ney; be!		[leaf 110]
At nede, here me when y call!		
Take fro me hele and prosperite		
Rapere pan lete me fro pe falt!'	72	
(10)		
¶ Man, rewe on my paynes sore,		
Repente by synne, and mercy craue.		Repent,
By my woundes, swere no more.		and swear no more.
Dysmembre no lymes pat y haue.	76	

Restore ill- gotten goods.	by wrong wynnyng, azen restore. 3if bou wilt by soule saue,	
Let thy soul		
rule over thy body.	Lete soule be lord, and go byfore,	80
body.	And make by body by soule knaue.	00
	(11)	
	¶ Man, and bou wist how,	
Thou mayst easily win my	So liztly my gre to make,	
grace.	bou noldest, for alle be worldis prow,	
	For fleschly lustes me forsake.	84
	In by lyue, besye be now;	
	In goode werkis wysely wake;	
	In loue, drede, to me bow,	
	And fle to me fro synnes blake.	88
	(12)	
Do the seven	¶ Seuene werkis of mercy, kepe hem well,	
works of charity,	be comaundementis and be Crede,	
mandments,	AH by lyue, as y be telle;	
and give me	3eue me byn herte in loue and drede.	92
thy heart.	Whyle body and soule togydre dwelle,	
	bou my3t serue pyne and mede.	
	When soule is out of flesch and felle,	
	Shal neuere do synne ne almesdede.	96
	(13)	
	¶ Mayntene not wrong, to calle it ry;t.	
Vengeance	Vengeaunce and mercy, neyzebores ben bo.	
and mercy are neigh-	As messageres bey ben dyst,	
bours,	Mercy to frend, vengeaunce to foo.	100
	3oure dede in derk, y se in sy3t;	200
	pere nys nó boust hid me fro.	
than wilt get	After by dede, be doom is dy3t.	
thou wilt get one of them	Vengeaunce and mercy departeb hem so.	104
according to thy works.	tengentation with morely depart to priorition	202
	(14)	
My doom is	¶ For my doom is ri3twisnesse;	
righteous;	Riztwys longep to be godhede;	
my son's	And my sones dom is wys,	
doom, merciful;	For mercy longe to be manhede.	108

he holy gost grace lys,

He zeueb lyf, he zeueb no dede.

Ouercome my wrappe, and fle fro vys,

And do pe comaundementis pat y bede."

the Holy Ghost gives grace."

112

XX. [Now Man's flesh complained to God against Christ.]

[Digby 102, leaf 120.]

[27 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

The tixt of holy writ, men sayn,

Hit sleep, but glose be among.

The spirit of vnderstandyng quykenep agayn,

And make the lyue endeles long.

A fantasie y herde sayn,

There-of me lust to make a song,

'How mannys flesch to god dede playn

On Ihesu Crist, had don hym wrong.'

I will tell how the flesh complained of Christ.

8

(2)

The flesch, his playnt bus dob bygynne

To god fader, in heuene on hyşt:

"Ihesu, brother of oure kynne,

Hap bygyled me wip his sley3t.

He hap parted my soule and me o twynne,

And raft [it] fro me by his my3t.

Now, ry3twys god, let mercy blynne!

On Ihesu, by sone, do me ry3t!

(3)

¶ Body and soule, bou dede me make,

In vnyte to-gydre so.

Now hap Ihesu my soule take,

And pus parted oure loue o two.

My soule hap me [now] forsake;

Sumtyme was frend, now is fo;

Byd me go wolward, faste, and wake,

Alle here ioye is of my woo.

It said, "God,

Jesus has alienated my soul from me.

16

20

Formerly she was my friend, now she is my enemy.

	(4)	
"My soul has taken refuge	¶ Fro me, to by sone, my soule is flet;	
with thy son,	Ful ofte by sone in me here souşte;	
	Now here loue to hym so fast is knete, Away fro hym wol sche nou;t.	28
[leaf 120, bk.]	She semes dronken, or out of wit;	ابند
and does not	Of myn euelfare she has no bouzt.	
me.	pat sorwe is so in myn herte hit,	
	I trowe to depe y mon be brouzt.	3:
	(5)	
Formerly she	¶ Sum-tyme my soule was mylde	
was mild,	To my biddyng, in hoot and colde,	
	Synge, or playe, or chambres bylde,	
now she seems to be	Chef seruaunt of myn housholde.	3
mad.	Now Ihesu hab made here made and wylde;	
	ffro hym, departe neuere she nolde.	
	She setteb on hym rizt as a childe;	
	Azens me she berep here bolde.	4
	(6)	
She will not	¶ Whan I of here counseil craue,	
allow me to have worldly	Of fleschly lustes to haue my wille,	
pleasures.	She calleb me wod, and seyb y raue;	
	She will neuere graunte pertille.	4
	She biddeb me haue mynde of my graue,	1
	Rule me in resoun and skille.	
	I was mayster, now am y knaue;	
	In that stat, brynge me she wille.	4
	22 0000 0000, 000 000 000 000	
	(7)	
She always bids me act in opposition to my will to do wrong.	¶ Wolde y be proud, she biddeb be meke;	
	Wolde y be gloton, she biddeb me faste;	
	pere y wolde take, she biddes me eke;	
	Wolde y be lyther, she biddis be chaste;	5
	3if y fy3te, she biddes ley for my cheke;	
	bere v am slow, she biddis be haste:	

Here answere is not to seke;

To speke to here, my wynde y waste.

(8)

¶ Ihesu com fro heuene blisse, And tok flesch in a mayden fre, Lowely, and most [of] mekenesse,

Hyd vnder flesch oure fraternite; [1 MS. flesch fleschly] 60

Now wold [he] take my soule to his, ffor he suffred pyne and pouerte. 3it sumwhat y myate acorde to bis;

" I should not mind Christ's taking my soul away.

But why shulde my soule hate me?

64 unless she hated me.

(9)

¶ Whan Ihesu and my soule be met, Sone my werkis bey aspize;

He and my soul blame my works,

Here wit on me fast bey whet:

'In shame, and skorne, and vylenve, To folwe by fleschly lustes let, Or ellis bobe ze shal dyze.' bus am y vnder and ouer set.

68 and warn me against sensuality.

She spettes on me, and dob me fyze.

72

(10)

¶ Wib me, my soule he dob brete, And make my soule me to hate. Wib plesande wordis, he hoteb here gete

He makes her hate and illtreat me.

In heuene blisse, a quenes astate.

pan comeb she hom in wrappe-ful hete, Bedeb here lette, bobe erly and late,

Casteb me doun, and dob me bete, And tredeb on me, and makeb debate.

80

76

(11)

Thanne renneb she azen as she were wood; To Ihesu, by sone, she dob flyze.

He fedeb here wib his flesch and blood, But panne here pouztes mownten hyze.

She biddip me water and bred to food; As mortkyn forsaken, she let me lize. She holder me euyll, and no byng good,

But a stynkyng carayne in here eyze.

He feeds her with his flesh 84 and blood,

> and then she despises me.

	(12)	
	¶ þus my soule, my body slees	
	Wib gret anguysche and turment.	
	She telles, Ihesu dyzed for pes;	
	But fro his skole she is went;	92
	Bytwen vs werre dob encres.	
	Here swerd is drawen, here bow is bent.	
"My soul	She sayb but, 'fleschly lustes, sees!	
requires me to give up	We mon be dede, and bobe be shent.'	96
sensuality, lest we both	•	
be disgraced.	(13)	
	¶ She acordid wib Ihesu, and me dede flyte,	
[1 leaf 121]	And sayde y shulde be 1 maked tame,	
	And sayde my werkys me adyte,	
	And bryngen me in wikked fame.	100
She loves my	3if worldly men me don smyte,	
enemies,	And don me bobe wrong and grame,	
	She loue that don me despyte,	
and prays for	And preyet for all bat don me shame.	104
all who shame me.	. , ,	
	(14)	
	¶ Hy3e fader, god of ri3twisnes,	
	Haue mynde of my sorwe sore!	
	And it be founden Ihesu loued mysse,	
God, restore me my soul,	To me my soule agen restore—	108
me my sout,	A litil playnt nes noşt bisse,	
	And alle pat y haue sayd 30re—	
	pat y and my soule be frendis and kisse,	
and make her love me again;	And loue, as we dede here byfore.	112
	(15)	
	¶ For my soule, Ihesu suffred wo,	
	Bounden and beten wib skourges ynowe,	
	Crowned wip thorn, nayled also	
Jesus died	On croos, tyl deb dede hym bowe.	116
of her.	Wib a spere, his herte let cleue a two,	
	Wyde open his loue my3te out flowe,	
	So lop hym was his loue forgo;	
	He is worky be loued, hat so dede wowe.	120
	, ,	

(16)

¶ My soule, y holde, holy es it,¹ [¹ Ms. it es]
For she loue p Ihesu, pat loue p here wel.
But loue were tendere to loue vsed,
Were harder pan ston, and styffere pan stel. 124

On Ihesu she is amerous and ful auysed. What worldly pyng she seep or fele,

Al worldly ioye she hap refused, And me she louep neuere a dele.

and hates the world,

"My soul loves Jesus,

(17)

(18)

¶ I wante my wille, and euel fare y,
Fro worldly merbe put o syde.
Fro worldis worschip she dob me tary.

I may no pouzt fro here hyde.

pere y blisse, she dop wary;

pere y speke fayre, she dop chyde.

She is newe waxen al contrary.

pere y dwelle, she nyl not byde.

132 me away from worldly pleasures.

136

140

144

and turns

¶ She repreueb my dagged clobes,
And longe pyked crakowed shon;
Vpbreyde[b] me my grete obes,
And sayb y breke goddis bone.
bat me is lef, all she lobes.

She scorns my fashionable dress,

I seye 'opere men so don.'

She seyp, pey go to helle wopes,

Wole to wende, wip hem to wone.

and hates all that I like.

(19)

Mip Ihesu, alway is she,
And now she lyp wip hym in cracche,
Now into Egipt wip hym dop fle
Fro Herowdes, lest he hem cacche.
In his moder armes, born wol she be,
And sowke wip hym, as chylde in tacche.
She folwep hym in al degre,
And countrefetep to ben his macche.

She accompanies Jesus through all his life.

148

(20)

"My soul eats and drinks with Jesus,	¶ Wip hym dop drynke and ete, To lerne of his discressioun; Wip hym sche is skourged and bete,	
and is with him in his passion	And crucyfyed in his passioun; She is wip hym in helle hete,	156
and ascension."	Wip hym in his resurexioun, And stye in-to heuene in his fadres se[t]e;	
	pens nolde she neuere come doun."	160
	(21)	
	¶ Now pe playnt is at pe last.	
God an- swered,	God answerd wip mylde soun:	
" Flesh, by this com-	'fflesch,' he sayde, 'pou iangelest fast	
plaint thou accusest thy-self.	Moche dene, and no resoun.	164
BUIL.	Alle by wordes bou dost waste.	
	Wille wipoute discressioun, byn awen pleynt be dob caste;	
	bou turnest by self vp so down.	168
	you variest yy sent vp so doun.	100
	(22)	
[leaf 121, bk.]	¶ Thou makest maystershepe in al vys,	
	And here [turnest] fro my way,	
	And makest here pral to fleschely delys,	
	In vanyte to al worldly play.	172
Thy soul is ashamed of	She is ashamed, now she is wys;	
thy vices.	Sche lyued in vowtrye so many a day.	
	She hap chosen be loue most o prys,	
	And cast be fals[e] loue away.'	176
	(23)	
	¶ God seiþ: 'man, y made þe of nouzt,	
	And kyd pat y loued pe dere,	
	And soule of resoun in be wrougt,	
	ffayre and wys, angels pere.	180
Thou hast disgraced my image, and	pou hast defouled be ymage bat y wrouzt, In seruage to fendis and fendis fere.	
art the devil's slave.	She folwed by wille in dede and boust,	
	In alle place, fer and nere.	184

(24)

¶ On Ihesu pou pleynt dost make,
Sayde he bigyled pe wip sley3te,
And biddest me lete mercy slake,
And on Ihesu do pe ry3t.

My sone, for pe, dede deth take,
And kydde pe loue most of my3t.

pou3 he loue dede forsake,

who died for

"Now thou

complainest

of Christ.

192

188

(25)

How woldest bou bis doom were dyst?

Flesch, by synnes mochil is;

bou art cast in byn awen caas.

Knowleche, repente, and mende by mys,

And be in wille no more trespas.

I nel deme be in ryztwisnes,

But medle berwib mercy and grace,

And brynge by soule to heuene blys,

Wib loue to se my fayre face.

I shall not judge thee after justice, but after

mercy, and bring thy soul to Heaven.

(26)

In ouerhope, be not to bold
In synne, for to have mercy.

Let not wanhope in \(\mu \) be old,
For my grace is evere redy.

Fro helle pynes hoot and cold
I assoyle \(\mu \), and out of purgatory.

At \(\mu \) deth, or body be cold,
To Ihesu in heuene \(\mu \) soule shal fleye.

Do not sin in excess or in want of hope.

Suffer sickness and

poverty, and help the poor."

204

208

J.

(27)

¶ In good werkis wysely wake,
Playne not on Ihesu, what he sende.

Sykenes, pouerte, mekely take;
Richesse and hele wysely spende,

And helpe all pore for goddis sake.

pan god wole lede 30w, as his frend,
To ioye of heuene pat shal neuere slake.'

In-to pat blisse, god graunte vs wende! Amen! 216

XXI. A lernyng to good lenynge.

[Digby 102, leaf 121, back.]

[20 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

Blessed be he who is poor in spirit;

Ore of spirit, blessed be: pouz he be lord of richesse fele, He berep penaunce and pouerte.

That of his good to pure folk dele,

he shall be a lord in the kingdom of Heaven.

Of be kyngdom of heuene a lord is he. pat counseyleb wel to soule hele, And lyueb in werkis of charyte,

Suche folk to heuene preuvly stele.

(2)

¶ Sib god dob blisse, and graunteb blis bat don his word, and holde it trewe,

Cursed is he who avariciously strives for riches;

ban bat man cursed is, pat lyueb contrarious bat vertue.

bat filleb his herte wib ryches, Nedeles aueryce gadryng newe,

he shall never find rest in Hell.

For wikkid counseil, helle is his, bere neuere nes reste, but euere remewe.

16

20

24

28

4

8

12

(3)

Blessed be he who is meek in spirit;

¶ Blessid be man bat in herte is mylde, Buxom to lerne, and lef to teche,

he shall possess the earth, and lead others to Heaven. [1 leaf 122]

Shal owe be lerbe, and beron bylde, In helpe of mony his rychesse reche,

Of shrewes, make goddis childe, Of gostly woundes, be soule leche;

Make tame to god, bo bat were wylde. Of eche good lyuere, his werkis preche.

Cursed be the hard-hearted man;

I panne cursed be man in herte ruyde, pat neuere nel lere ne vnderstond. bous he owe erbe, he shal not byde,

Til it be, out of his hond.

(4)

XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount. 97

When conscience his werkis chyde,
pat man shal neuere reioyse lond.
Fro alle vertues pat dop hym hyde,
To alle myscheues he makep hym bond.

he shall never rejoice in his fortune.

32

(5)

¶ Blessed be he pat mornep sore
His brepere synnes, his awen mysdede,
Repente, and wille to do no more,
But holde pe hestes pat god bede;
His wrong wynnyng azen restore,
And helpe pore pat han nede.
He shal be counforted perfore,

In heuene blisse haue his mede.

Blessed be he who repents his sins;

36

restores illgotten goods, and helps the poor; he shall be comforted in 40 Heaven.

(6)

¶ Than cursed be he hap ioye of synne,
And euere encresep mo and mo,
Boste perof, delyte perynne,
3eue men ensample to do so.
Heuene 3ates fro hem they pynne,
Of goddis frendis make goddis foo;
In helle pey purchas here ynne;
His felaschipe, with hym thay go.

Cursed be he who increases his sins,

44 and misleads others.

48

(7)

¶ Blessed euere mote he be,

pat hungren and thursten ry3twisnes;

He wolde were wel in al degre,

pat god and man echon had his.

Gostly hunger and thurstes he

pat fayn wolde mende pat is mys.

Ful filled he shal wip grete deynte

At goddis feste in heuene blisse.

Blessed be he who hungers and thirsts for righteousness;

52

he shall be filled full in Heaven.

(8)

Than cursed is he pat ful is fylde,
Wip wrong take pore mennys thrift,
pat makep pore men be spilde,
For synguler profyt is sotyH theft;

Cursed is he who harms the poor

¹ MS.: spi3ed.

POEMS (OXF.).

60 for his own profit's sake.

H

98	XXI. A	Learning	to good	Living:	the !	Sermon	on the	Mount.
----	--------	----------	---------	---------	-------	--------	--------	--------

	Make gulteles folk presoned and kylde,	
	Of hous and land make wrongwys gyft;	
	Wip hunger and pirst his hous is bylde.	
	In helle is shewed eueH-sponnen wyft.	64
	(9)	
Blessed be he	¶ Blessid be pe mercyable;	
who helps the poor and	Mercy and mede, of god he fonges.	
needy.	In goddis doom he stondes stable,	
	pat wrekep not all his owen wronges.	65
	To pore folk he is profytable,	
	pat leueb his good hem amonges.	
	Sorefull and hungry, he fyndeb hem table,	
	The sorwefull he glade to synge songes.	72
	(10)	
The rich who	¶ Thanne, how of hem han hertis stoute	
don't help the	pat reweb non pore bat han penaunce,	
Proof	Han nedeles gold nost to lene it oute,	
	But to be borwere gret greuaunce;	71
	But he may quyte, is zerne aboute	
	To presone hym or make destaunce:	
shall be	But he be cursed, it is in dowte;	
cursed.	pat hap no mercy, 1 mote have vengeaunce.	81
[1 lf. 122, bk.]	just hay no morely, more nado vengedance.	
	(11)	
Blessed be	¶ Blessed be he pat louep pes,	
the peaceful man, he shall be called a	Mekely to goddis byddyng bende.	
child of God.	He shal be cleped, at goddis dees,	
	Goddis sone, good and hende.	8
	He wolde all werre shulde asses,	
	Of goddis foon, make goddis frende;	
	Make soule wip ioye to heuene pres,	
	And sorwe and werre to helle wip fende.	88
	(12)	
Whoever	Than, how of hem pat pes dop hate,	
hates peace, and excites	Wolde ouerall were werre and woo,	
troubles for his profit's	Eche man wip oper debate,	
sake,	1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1	().

pat shulde be frend, make hem foo;

XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount. 99

For synguler wynnyng to his astate, Lede his men, opere to sloo: He shal be blessed neuere or late; shall be condemned by His werkis curseb hym, where he go. 96 his own works. (13)¶ The clene of herte, blissed be, Blessed be he who has a pat lyueb after goddis lore. clean heart; God hym self he shal see, he shall see God. pere as blisse is euere more; 100 And gouerneb well his owen degre, And dob be dede bat he come fore; Fulfylleb be werkis of charyte: His vertue gadereth mede in store. 104 (14)¶ The herte pat is fyled in synne, Whoever lets his heart rot And sulpeb his soule wib spottes of blame, in sin, falls under the Goddis curs he dob wynne, curse of God. pat spyseb hym-self and goddis name. 108 His astate, he nele not dwelle berynne; To serue god hym benkeb shame. 3if god and he departe o twynne, In helle he may be meked tame. 112 (15)¶ That is pursued¹ for rigtwisnes [1 MS. presued] Blessed is he who is perse-Is blessid, where he go or ryde; cuted for righteousbe kyngdom of heuene is his, ness' sake; pat querell to ende, in charite byde. 116 for he shall go to the kingdom God wole brynge hym to heuene blis, of Heaven. And fro his enemys bere wole hym hyde; Nota And po pat pursue hym with mys, To helle bey ben here awen gyde. 120 (16)¶ Thanne are they cursed in here lyf, Cursed are those who pat auaunce be fals, and stroye be trewe, maintain falsehood Mayntene fals querell and stryf, against right;

124

Ristwis men wrongly pursue,

100 XXI. A Learning to good Living: the Sermon on the Mount.

200 2222	1. 11 12 000 100 10g to good 1200 010g. 0100 1501 1100 10 0100 100	212.0 €,70.
	Defowle bobe mayden and wyf,	
	pat shulde be clene in alle vertue.	
they shall	Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf;	
reap as they sow.	For he shal repe pat he sewe.	128
	(17)	
You shall be	¶ 3e shal be blessid, erly and late,	
blessed	By vertue of gospeH hat 3e preche.	
	3e shul be blessid, whan folk 30w hate,	
	And cursen 30w for 30ure speche.	132
	3oure tonge is kaye of heuene 3ate,	
though	3oure word, be way to heuene hem teche.	
people hate you for my	Folk wip 30w schal debate,	
sake.'	ffor me wip lesynges 30w apeche.	136
	(18)	
Da daniel	` '	
Be cheerful, for your	Glade 3e wip-ynne, and ioye wip-oute:	
reward in Heaven shall	3 oure mede in heuene moche is.	
be great; and be not afraid of tyrants,	Drede no tyrauntes sterne and stoute	1.00
who may slay your body;	May sle by body, and take as his.	140
but fear God, who may	God, be fader of heuene, 3e dowte	
save or spoil	May brynge be soule to pyne or blis;	
[leaf 123] both your	He schal deme all be world aboute,	144
body and soul.	To heuene for goode, to hell for mys.	1 * *
	(19)	
You are the	¶ Of erpe 3e ben cleped 'salt,'	
salt of the earth.	ffor salt of wisdom soule saues;	
Do your work well,	Go vp-rizt and be not halt,	
WCII,	ffor mayster of seruaunt his service craves.	148
you will have	þyn astate rekene þou shalt,	
to account for it.	How pou it gat, how pou it saues.	
	Fewe ben chosen, pouz mony ben calt,	
	Fro goddis seruyce are worldly knaues.	152
	(20)	
Nota	¶ To lanterne 3e ben likned ri3t,	
You are a	In all be world 3e shal be kyd.	
lantern to the world; don't hide	3oure prechyng shal be candel list,	
your light,	Nou3t vnder worldly buschel hyd,	156

But on a candel-styke on hizt;

Nouzt vnder a chiste, vnder a lyd;
In good werkis shyne ze bryzt,

And lyue ze so, rizt as ze byd.

but let it shine in good works.

XXII. Unowe thy self and thy god.

[Digby 102, leaf 123.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Thenke hertely in by boust
Of what matere bou dede bygynne.
Of fylthy seed bou were wroust,
And wan in at be wyket of synne.
Foulere fylbe knowe y noust
ban bou were fed by moder wib-ynne;
In a sake ful of filbe bou was out broust,
In wrecchednes horyble, and stynkyng skynne.

Remember of what stuff thou art made.

4

12

16

20

(2)

¶ What bou art, knowe by self wel.

bou were conceyued in synne, and born wib woo.

by moder and bou, on fortune whel,

In perile of deb, parted a-twoo.

Of pynes of helle, what soules fele,

And bou in mynde keped boo,

Hit wolde make by corage kele,

Whan bou hadde wil, to synne goo.

Thou wast conceived and born in sin.

(3)

¶ God made þe of nouzt, haue in mynde, Wiþ soule of resoun, lyk his ymage. In heuene, wiþ angels, aboue þe wynde, He ordeyned þe endeles heritage. Wiþ more loue he dede þe bynde:

Bycome þy brother in mannys lynage. He, ielous louer and trewest to fynde, þy soule is spouse to his maryage.

God made thee in his image.

He became thy brother;

24 thy soul is his spouse.

1	4	١
(+	1

	(4)	
Keep thy	To god, thy wedlok wip loue holde,	
wedlock truly, and	In brennyng contemplacion,	
don't make him a cuck-	And make noust hym cokewolde,	
old.	To loue in fornycacion.	28
	On goddis mercy be not to bolde,	
	To falle in temptacion.	
	Kepe charite hot, let it not colde	
	For quenchyng of deuocion.	32
	(5)	
Love thy	¶ Loue all folk in charyte,	
neighbour.	Body and soule in good atent,	
	As bou wolde bey dede be;	
	pat is goddis comaundement.	36
	Who breke po hestes, cursed is he	00
	Til pey come to mendement.	
	bou preyest euere-more in all degre	
	Til þat þou to synne assent.	40
	and the same and t	
	(6)	
Think of thy	I That pou hast don sip pou were bore,	
sins and of thy virtues.	All by lyuyng bybenk be newe.	
	Wheper hast bou more in store,	
	Or of vices or of vertue;	44
	And wheher hast bou folwed more	
	Good aungel or wykked, for bobe be sewe;	
	by countretayle bey wil shewe, be skore,	
[1 lf. 123, bk.]	In helle or in heuene, 1 wreten trewe.	48
	(7)	
	¶ Haue mynde, god sente his sone adoun,	
	Tok mankynde in flesch and felle,	
Remember	And suffred hard passioun,	
the passion	Dyed on croys, and heryed helle.	52
	Haue mynde of his resurexioun;	
	Byleue all pis trewe gospelle.	
and the as-	Haue mynde on his Assencioun;	
cension of the Lord.	On god his fader rist hond, dop dwelle.	56

XXII. Know thyself & God. XXIII. Sacrament of Altar. 103

(8)

¶ penke pou shalt dye, and nost whenne;
pou art incertayn, perfore drede.
Fro heueue to erpe, god shal come penne,
Deme euel and good, after here dede;
pe good, to heuene blisse renne,
In endeles lyf to haue here mede;
pe wikked, in helle for to brenne,
In endeles pyne, dep shal hem fede.

Thou must die, and shalt go either to Heaven or to Hell.

60

60

61

(9)

Fle all foly, and folwe be wise!

The ten comaundementis, bou hem kepe;

be seuen werkis of mercy, wel hem vse;

be seuene synnes bou be-wepe,

by fyue wittes be auyse.

Do penaunce, and preye whyle bou schuld slepe;

be fend and fals[e] world despise;

No fleschly lustes be vndercrepe;

XXIII. Of the sucrament of the Altere.

[Digby 102, leaf 123, back.] (16 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.)

(1)

I wole be mendid 3 if y say mys.

Holychirche nes nober tre ne stones.

be hous of preyers, god nempned bys,

Bobe goode men and wikked ressayueb at ones.

bere as gadryng of goode men ys,

Is holychyrche of flesch and bones.

Prestes are lanterne, hem to wysse

be wise weyes to heuene wones.

The Church is a congregation of good men;

priests are to lead the way to Heaven.

(2)

¶ Holychirche, heryze by saucour,
bynk by hurd, god on hizt,
Wib song and ympnes, tyde and houre,
Reioys in hym day and nyzt;

Church, glorify thy Saviour.

12

be wyn, to blod, bat is so red.

the wine into blood.

bou seest not fleschly bou takest benne;by byleue of herte, makeb be fast fro ded,Wibouten ordre of bynges, to renne,By tokene and word bat he bede.

48

(7)

Wip-outen help of ordre of pyngis,

pe bok of oure byleue is lent,

Vnder dyuerce spices only tokenynges,

pouz pe spices fro hym be went,

Not durked ne hyd, but rizt shynynges,

pouz fleschly syzt fro hym be blent,

pe soule hap ioye, and mery synges,

When good byleue seep pe sacrament.

52

You cannot see the transubstantiation with your fleshly eyes, but only in your belief.

(8)

¶ þe blod is drynk, þe flesch is mete,
Ys gostly fode, þe soules delys;
Neuere-þe-lattere, of crist to trete,
He dwelleþ vnder ayþer spys.
þe ressayuour counteþ not þat þey ete,
Ne brekeþ it not, but hool it lys.
þou3 a thowsand take at o sete,
Alone on takeþ as moche o prys.

Christ is present in either species, even in the smallest part of it.

64

(9)

While obley in yrnes, or boyst ys stoken,
Hit nys but bred, and sengyl bake;
Whanne pe prest, to hit, goddis wordis hath spoken,
Crystys quyk body, vndir bred o cake.
68
pouz it a pousand peces seme broken,
Nes parted ne wasted, but al holl take.
In byleue of holychirche, who wyl hym zoken,
Azen pis, non argument may make.
72

as soon as the priest has spoken the words of God.

(10)

¶ That ressayue, children, man, and wyf, Not al yliche deuocioun. Summe taken it in synne and stryf, As bestes wip-outen discrecioun.

The wicked receive in the housel their dannation; the good, their salvation.	pe wikkid resceuep a dedly knyf, And his endeles dampnacioun; pe good resceyuep endeles lyf, To body and soule saluacioun.	80
Though you receive only a small part of the host,	(11) ¶ When bou to chirche gost To resceyue god, wisely go. I suppose be prest haue but on ost, Breke it, and parte to twenty and mo:	84
	As moche is pe leste cost As in pe grettest pece of po; Deme all yliche, lest and most; Quaue not, ne drede not, to sen hit so.	88
	(12) ¶ bous be prest be sacrament clyue In a bowsand peces and bre, be state as statute as must deb myste	
the sacra- ment does not lose its virtue.	he state, ne stature, ne my;t dob myue, Ne leseb ne lasseb of his pouste. by fleschly sy;t bou shalt not lyue; But tokene of brekyng makeb he; For fleschly skyn, no sacrement kan preue,	92
The Jews ate	In gostly bylyue shal saued be. (13) In old[e] lawe, 3e wyten how	96
a lamb at Easter; we eat living bread.	At estren bey eten a lamb al ded, Is ouer put in newe lawe now; At estre, we eten quyk bred.	100
	In old[e] lawe, for mannys prow, God pe comaundementis bed; And oure newe lawe we don allow, And kepen bope by goddis red.	104
Jesus, forgive us our tres- passes,	And forzene vs oure mysdede!	
lead us to Heaven,	by face, wip loue to seen in sy3t, In lond of lyf, pou vs lede.	108

Among by seyntes in heuene on hyat, At pat feste of lif, god, vs fede! Sopfast bred, god of myst, Ihesus herde, bou vs hede!

and feed us among the [lf. 124, bk.] saints.

112

(15)

¶ In syst and in felyng, bou semest bred, In byleue, flesch, blod, and bon; In syst and felyng, bou semest ded, In byleue, lyf, to speke and gon; In syst and felyng, nober hand ne hed, In byleue, bobe god and man; In syst and felyng, in litil sted, In byleue, grettere byng nes nan.

To our senses thou seemest bread; but in our belief, thou art the living and almighty God.

120

116

(16)

¶ Whan Abraham of Ysaac his offryng made, ffor a ffygure he lykned is To angels bred, oure fadres hadde, pat god fed hem in wyldernes. Afterward, god hem bade, "A paske lomb rosted, and eteb bes." In stede of bat, oure soules to glade, We resceyue oure houself, god o blisse.

Isaac,

the manna,

124

and the paschal lamb, were types of Christ, whom we

128 receive in the housel.

XXIV. The Ressouns of the Dirige.

[Digby 102, leaf 124, back.] [52 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Lectio prima: Parce mihi, domine.

lmysty god, lord, me spare, for sope, my dayes werkys ben nozt. My wittes on nystes wrong y ware, perof longe zeres mon be wrozt. benke, man, bou ware born ful bare. In-to bis world what hastou broat? Out of bis world whanne bou schalt fare, bou schalt here with be ryst nost.

Spare me, O Lord, for my works are vain.

4

(2)

	(~)	
What is man?	¶ What is man of gret renoun,	
	That of hym self make p aldre mest!	
Why doest thou sud-	Why settyst pou by herte agen resoun,	
denly punish	And sodeynly repreuest hem mest?	12
444444	In be dawenynge bou souztest hem vpsodoun.	
	Contrary to godis hest	
	bou purchasest by saule helle prisoun;	
	For fleschely lust, wormes fest.	16
	(3)	
How long	¶ How longe sparest bou me nost,	
will thy punishment last?	To swolwe my spotel, bote it me gryue?	
tastr	bou keper of men, alle byng hast wrozt;	
	What shal y do to byn byhyue?	20
	What hastou set me contrarie by bost,	
	by holy lawe to repryue?	
	Lord, whenne my werkis mon be so;t,	
Don't despise me in my	Dyspyce me no3t in my myschyue!	51
misery.	(4)	
I am dis- gusted with	¶ Ful heuy to my self y am maad withynne;	
myself.	My werkes, on me heuye isse.	
	Why takest bou nost away my synne,	
	And bere from me my wykednesse?	28
	I slepe in dust, for we ben kynne,	
	For erthe clayme; me for hisse.	
	To seche me eerly, 3if bou begynne,	
	I ne may withstonde be y-wisse.	32
	(5)	
	Lectio secunda: Tedet animam meam.	
My soul dis-	¶ My soul, of my self anoyed isse.	
dains me.	I shal leue my speche azens me.	
	To my soul y wole speke in bitternesse,	
I shall say,	And y shal saye to god so fre:	36
"Don't con- demn me,	Wyl nost dampne me fro blisse,	
O Lord; show me the	Shew me be cause, bat wolde I se,	
cause of thy anger.	Why demestou me boy y dede mysse,	
	Lord, whether be bynke good to be.	40
	, , , , , ,	

(6)

¶ 3if bou chalenge my werk, and bere me down, Me that am werk of by hande,

And bou in consayl helpe 3e moun

To wykked men here synnes withstande,

Wip repentaunce and sorwful ¹soun

May launce hem from be deuelys bande:

To 3erde of loue y moste me boun;

Lord, me chastice wip pat wande.

44 Thou helpest wicked men [1 leaf 125] to repent their sins; I bow to thy wand of love;

48 chastise me with it.

(7)

Wheper pyn ey3en ben fleschlye, Or pou seest as man shal see?

Or py dayes so sone syze,

As other mennys dayes be?

Or by zerys rist so hye,

As mennys tymes in here degre !-

For pou art god shal neuere dyze,

For sorwe and dep shal from the fle-

Are thy eyes as man's eyes,

and thy days as men's

52 days,

56

(8)

¶ That bou seche my wykkednesse, And ransake my synne,

And wyte I have nogt down mysse, Bote hert and soule clene withynne.

Sobes ber no man nesse

May skape byn hond, and from the twynne,

Bote repentaunce and mercy kesse.

pat now ben frendis, lord, make hem kynne.

that thou searchest for my wickedness

60 though my soul is clean?

(9)

Lectio tertia: Manus tue fecerunt me.

Thy hand made me man of resoun, 1 [1 Ms. be soun]

And shope me al in compas, And sodeynly bou cast me doun,

ffor knew y nost what bou was.

Of me men sample take mowen,

Be ware lest pay folwe my tras.

I hadde lordship in feld and toun,

Now on a donghille is my pas.

Thy hand made me,

and now it suddenly casts me down.

68

64

Let others take an example by me.

I was rich, now I lie on a dunghill.

	(10)	
	¶ Haue mynde on me, lord, and take hede	
Thou madest	Of fen of erthe bou dede me make.	
me of dust, and wilt re-	In-to dust agen bou shalt me lede,	
duce me to dust.	My soule from be body take.	76
	My flesch is ful sleper atte nede,	
	And solpe my soule wip synnes blake.	
	Lord god, by dome y drede.	
	Whanne bou comest, y mon awake.	80
	, , , ,	
	(11)	
	¶ My hert shulde be stedefast,	
	bou hast lopred as mylk, and slep in bougt,	
Thou form-	Rizt as chese bou croddest me fast.	
edst me like cheese.	I wyte my synnes bat y wrougt.	84
	Lord, alle my synnes away bou cast,	
	Bote wib my synnes cast me nost.	
	bou knowest how longe my lyf shulde last;	
	bou sette my terme, y passe it nogt.	88
	(12)	
Thou cloth-	I bou clopedest me with flesch and skyn,	
edst me with flesh and	With bones and synewes made me to-gyder;	
bone, and gavest	Lyf and mercy 3 af me withyn;	
me life.	As brotel vessel y stonde slyder.	92
	by sechyng hap kepyd my gost with wyn.	
	A, lord, whenne bou comest hyder	
	To deme al erpe, by domes to twyn	
	pouz I wolde fle, I not nozt whyder.	96
	(12)	
	(13)	
Whither shall I flee	To deme be erthe whanne bou wendys,	
from thee on doomsday?	Fro face of by wrappe whyder shal I go?	
on one of the	To hyde me wip angels aren goddis frendys?	
	And god me hate, pay ben my fo.	100

And I hyde me in helle among fendys, In pyne þay wolen tormente me so.

Me thynke pay waxen mo and mo.

104

[116.125, bk.] I have synned 1 rist moche, my synne me schendys.

(14)

¶ My trespas moche arn blamed.

Bote repentaunce be mendement,

Byfore þe, y drede, y am aschamed.

Whenne þou comest to iugement,

þat weren wylde, mon be tamed,

Al wopen of wraþþe mon be brent;

In bok of lyf þo þat be named,

To iove of heuene mon be sent.

I fear I shall be disgraced by thy judgment.

112

116

(15)

¶ Almyşty god, lord, me zeme,
In thy mercy pou me lede.

Whenne my soule is boden out fleme,
Helpe me, lord, atte al my nede.

Whenne pou al pe world shal deme,
Dampne me nozt after my dede.

Whenne pat angels blowen here beme

Have mercy on me;

Whenne pat angels blowen here beme,
penne alle folk may haue gret drede.

120

(16)

Trom worldis worschipe y am shoue,
And brozt abas from al astat.

My skyn is cloped al on roue,
In pouerte and peyne my wyt is mat.

Lord, chastice me wip zerd of loue,
pouz y haue seruyd pe swerd of hat.

Wherto wyltou py maystry proue,
Wip suchon as I to make debat?

124

chastise me with the wand of love, though I deserve the sword of 128

(17)

Lectio quarta: Quantas habeo.

¶ Als many wykkednesse and trespas
And synnes withoute noumbre mo
Shew me; why hydest þy fas
fro me, and demest me þy fo?
Lord, þenkes þe solace
This turment, and do me wo?
A drope of thy mercie of oyle of grace,
Lord, graunte me er y go.

132

Grant me a drop of thy mercy.

(18)

	(18)	
	¶ I am slyme of erthe, haue in mynde,	
	Pore of matere and dedely,	
I am but a	As a lef styrede with wynde.	
withered leaf, and against	On me bou prouest by maystry.	140
provest thy	bou prouest by my3t, and bat I fynde,	
power.	O pe stubble, pat is so drye,	
	bou pursuest me, and wylt me bynde,	
	Wip synnes in my 30upe pou wylt me stroye.	144
	(19)	
	Lord, pou pursuest me fast,	
	for sope, azens me pou doest wryte	
	Bitternesse, bote swete is past.	
	I may no3t blenche whenne bou wylt smyte.	148
	I trowe pat pou wolt me wast,	
Thou visitest	With synnes in my 30upe do me endite.	
sins of my youth.	Lord, on me by wille bou hast.	
	My grete synne myself y wyte.	152
	(20)	
	(20)	
	¶ In synne pou settest my fot and hede,	
	And alle my werkes hastou so3t,	
****	And alle steppys y euere 3ede;	4.5.0
Thou hast counted all	3e haue nombred alle my wordes and post.	156
my words and thoughts.	And als bou hast taken hede,	
	Roten y schal be, wasted to no;t;	
	As clothes pat moppes on hem fede,	1.00
	So shal my flesch with wormes so3t.	160
	(21)	
	¶ Wo [to] me, so mon y be,	
	For y haue don moche synne.	
Whither shall	I, wreche, whyder shal y fle	
I flee but to thee,	ffor wrechyd lyf y lyued ynne?	164
	My lord, my god, no3t bote to the!	
God of	God of mercie, on me mynne!	
mercy ?	Lord, haue mercie on me,	
[1 leaf 126]	Let no3t thy loue 1 fro me twynne!	168

(22)

Lectio quinta: Homo natus.

¶ Man, that is of woman born, Lyuynge short tyme he is.

The life of man is short.

Er his nauel be knytte and shorn, ffulfilde with many wrechidnes.

Before his navel is knotted and 172 cut, he is full of wretchedness.

Er he fro moder be forborn, In peryl of deth, bothe partie es.

3if flesch be lord, the soule is lorn;

Bote soule be lord, he leseth his blys. 176

(23)

¶ Man geth out as don floures, Corage and strengthe, and fayre of hewe;

He withers like flowers.

Makeb moche of hymself, saybe al is oures, And repeth pat he neuere ne sewe.

180

He is defouled be dayes and houres, And fleeb as shadow, bat neuere grewe;

and vanishes like shadows:

Dwelleb neuere in be self stat of ouris,

Encresceb mo vyces ban vertew.

184

(24)

¶ And bou holdest worthy to open thyn ey, And come to me, and clayme for rent,

and thou vouchsafest to look at me.

To loke on such a wrecche as y,

And lede hym with the to iugement,

188 and to lead me to thy judgment.

per al mankynde in company, Atte thy general parlement;

Vertues to heuen ther schul 3e try,

The vyces in helle fyre be brent.

(25)

¶ What man may make hym clene, pat is conceyued in vnclene sed?

Ywhether bou art alone, withoute mene? To felowschipe bou hast non nede.

Short ar mannys dayes sene,

And the nombre of hys monthes in thy dede.

bou hast sette his terme of fat and lene,

He passeb it nost for no mede. POEMS (OXF.).

196

192

The life of man is short; his term of fat and lean is set; he cannot

200 prolong it for meed.

(26)

	(26)	
Go a little	¶ A, go away a lytel hym fro,	
away from me, that I	In mendement that he mow rest	
may rest in amendment till I die.	Tyl the day he zerned so,	
till I die.	A, of harde man, come pat is best.	204
	Lord, haue no mynde to do me wo,	
	fforber my synnes wolde make me lest.	
	Lord, whenne bou comest to deme so	
	Al pe world be fyre, bope est and west,	208
	God, in by sy3t by way y go	
	Ry3t ham; in by fayb me fest!	
	(27)	
On doomsday	¶ Lord, whenne bou demest alle byng in ri3t,	
	Wher mercie shal nost knawen be;	212
	Ry3t lesep no3t his my3t,	
let mercy be	pous mercie be in companye.	
joined with right.	Mercy is euere in by syst,	
	For mercie euere byn eyzen se.	216
	Wher-euere by dome is dy3t,	
	Rizt claymet mercie for his fee.	
	(28)	
	(28) Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat.	
Who can	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat.	
grant me protection	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeuep to me, pat y me hyde	220
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who 3eueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past?	220
grant me protection from thy	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeuep to me, pat y me hyde	220
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast?	220
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueþ to me, þat y me hyde Tylle þy wraþþe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, þy dome to byde,	220 224
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde!	
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last.	
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast!	
grant me protection from thy wrath in	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29)	
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan.	224
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeuep to me, pat y me hyde Tylle py wrappe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, py dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! pou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro py face me cast! (29) ¶ pou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt.	
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt. Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man,	224
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt. Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man, Shal haue azeyn man of myzt,	224
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt. Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man, Shal haue azeyn man of myzt, And zelde rekenyng sen y bygan	224
grant me protection from thy wrath in Hell?	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt. Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man, Shal haue azeyn man of myzt, And zelde rekenyng sen y bygan With alle dayes bat y now fyzt?	224
Fix a time when thou wilt remember me.	Lectio sexta: Quis mihi hoc tribuat. ¶ Who zeueb to me, bat y me hyde Tylle by wrabbe in helle be past? Withouten pyne, by dome to byde, Tyl body and soule azen be fast? With arguments nozt me chyde! bou knowest how longe my lyf shal last. Lord, lat mercie be my gyde, And neuere fro by face me cast! (29) ¶ bou set me a tyme; couenant is tan. Haue mynde on me, what dome is dizt. Trowest bou ouzt bat y, dede man, Shal haue azeyn man of myzt, And zelde rekenyng sen y bygan	224

(30)

¶ Lord, bou shalt clepe me,

And I shal answere to be, werk of byn hande.

Thou shalt call me, and I shall answer.

236

Werk of by rist hand, take to be;

bou shalt not bynde it in helle bande.

bou hast noumbred my steppes, how mony bay be,

How monye y ran, how monye I stande. 240

Bot spare bou, lord, to be synne of me,

Ne wilne nost deme my werkes se fande.

(31)

¶ Deme me noşt after my dede,

244 Lord, I byseche be!

I have don in by sizt, and tok non hede;

perfore I praye by mageste, God, my wikkednesse away bou lede,

Myn vnry3t away wasche 3e!

Non more; lord, at my nede,

Of alle my synnes clense 3e me!

248 Take my sins from me,

> and make me clean.

(32)

Lectio septima: Spiritus¹ meus. [1 MS. spē]

¶ My gost, shalt bou be made newe,

My dayes shulle yshorted be; 252

My soule fro be body mon remewe,

Alone a graue byleueth to me.

I haue non synne, no vices me sewe, Myn eyen in bitternesse dwelle y se. 256

Deliuere me, lord, and on me rewe,

And sette me bysydes the!

(33)

T Whos hande bou wolt ageyn me fygt,

And bou proue by stronge hande?

My dayes ben passed to withstonde by my3t,

I may nost bere by litel wande.

My thoustes ben wasted, turned in ryst,

Turmentynge my herte inwith and ande;

my thoughts 264 torment my heart.

wand;

I cannot bear your little

And turnyd day to be nyst.

After derkenesse I have bedded my bed, I fande.

My soul shall

escape from my body; only the grave shall be left to me.

(34)

		()				
	I said to rot- tenness and	¶ I sayde to stynke and rotenesse,				
	to the worms, You are my	the worms, 'My fader and moder arn 2e:'				
	parents	And to wormes y sayde bysse:				
	and my	'My systren and my brethern both be 3e.'				
	brothers.' Earth claims	And erthe claymet me for hysse,				
	me as her	Where ben now my bydynge to me.	272			
		My felynge bou art, and my god of blisse.				
		Drede of deth droueth me.				
		Divide of dom divident me,				
		(35)				
	Sin is always	¶ Eche a day synnyng,				
	increasing, virtue de-	And euere newe encres;	276			
	creasing.	Neuere a day blynnyng,				
		Bote euere vertue wane les. ¹ [1 MS. waneles]				
		To repente no bygynnyng,				
		Nost bote gadre synne ay in pres.	280			
		In helle is no wynnyng,	200			
		Ne non azeynbyynge to pes.				
		The non ageymogyinge to pes.				
		(36)				
		Lectio octava: Pelli mee.				
	My body	¶ My flesches ben wasted, don me refuse,				
	decays.	My bones cleuyn vnto þe skyn;	284			
		My lippes arn shronken out of syse,	201			
		Aboute my teth arn left atwyn.				
		Haue mercye on myn werk vnwyse,				
	Hana manan	Haue mercie on me, let mercie wyn!	288			
	Have mercy, especially		200			
	you, my friends.	Namly my frendes, me no; t despyse; Lordis hande hath towched me more and myn.				
		Lordis hande hath towelled me more and myn.				
		(37)				
		¶ Why pursue 3e me, and on me syte,				
		And arn filled of my flesch and fel?	292			
	Who will	Who zeueb to me, bat wolde y wyte,				
	grant my	Wordes in boke be ered wel,				
words to be written, with an iron		Or in a plate of led wryten				
	pencil, on a leaden plate?	With an yren poyntel,	296			
	Tador pares		200			
		Or in a flynt grauen and spyten By craft of work without abyzel?				
		By craft of werk withoute chysel?				

304

312

320

everlasting life to the

soul in darkness.

(38)

¶ I byleue ¹ bat soth y say, [1 leaf 127] My Saviour 300 is alive. I shall rise and Myn azeynbyere lyuynge isse. I shal rysen of be erthe my laste day, behold him with these Bylapped in my flesch and skyn ywisse; eyes of mine. Byholde with myn eyzen twey,

Non other eyzen bote bes, withouten nay; be hope in my bosom yput vp isse.

Se god, my sauyour, in blisse;

(39)

The soule is in derkenesse from gostly syst. Lord, 3yue here rest and pees! 308 O Lord, give Withouten ende, 3yue here ly3t, Euerlastynge lyst, pat neuere shal sees!

bou bat rered Lazar on hyst Out of be graue, stynkynge fro wormes pres,

by pauylon of mercy be on hem pyst, To reste fro pyne, make hem reles.

(40)

[2 MS. nulla]

Lectio nona: Quare de uulua² eduxisti me qui, &c.

¶ Out of be wombe, why hastou me broat, Why didst thou allow pat wolde y hadde be fordon? 316 me to be panne hadde I be as nost, Noon eyze hadde sene me after son;

pan hadde I be as vnwrozt, Nost born from wombe to berelis doun, Where my short dayes arn in my boat,

Where pay shal nost be ended moun.

(41)

¶ A, perfore, lord, graunte me pes Grant me repentance of To wepe and wayle, repente my synne, 324 my sins; let me not go pat y torne nost aseyn to erthe of derkenes, to Hell, To stryues of deb, be curyd berynne, Lond of wrethes and besternesse per is shadew of dep, noon oper wynne; 328

per wonep euerlastynge for hem lyued mysse, Euere gryslyhede, pat neuere schal blynne.

(42)

	Libera me, domine.	
but deliver me from eter-	¶ Delyuere me, lord, from endeles deþe	
nal death.	In pat grete dredful day,	332
	Where heuenys schullen be styred from erpe brepe	,
	Whenne bou shalt come to deme for ay.	
	To heuen, or helle, pat on he gep;	
	be word be fyre, and grete afray.	336
	panne, woo to the synful, his soule slep,	
	And fendys claymen hym for here pray.	
	(43)	
On doomsday	¶ That day shal be a day of drede,	
	Of wrappe and myschyf, and wrechidnesse.	340
nobody shall	bere may no man obere rede,	
be able to change his	Ne make amendis for his mysse.	
sentence,	ffor worldly witnesse of synful ded,	
	Gostly payne in bitternesse.	344
either by	pere helpep neper counseil ne med;	
by meed.	Ech man for hymself, to payne, or blysse.	
	(44)	
What shall I	What shal y say for shame and drede,	
say then, having no	Or what to do, fool and nys,	348
virtues to produce?	Whanne y shal schewe forb no good dede	0 10
	Byfore so gret iuge and wys?	
	Al folk on me woln take hede,	
	Wayte after vertue, and fynde vys.	351
	Say, "God, mercy, by dome y drede,	
	ffor in be, al mercy lys."	
	(45)	
Jesus, have	¶ Now, crist, of by mercie we craue,	
mercy on us,	Haue mercie on vs, and leue nost,	356
[1 lf. 127, bk.]	We byseche pe, pat come ¹ mankynde to saue.	000
2	To bye vs, pou from heuene vs soat,	
	Oure herytage for vs to haue.	
	pat wern lorn, pou hast bost.	360
and destroy	Wyl nost dampne in helle kaue,	301
not the work of thy hand.	Thy honde warke bou hast wroat.	

Thy honde warke bou hast wrost.

(46)

¶ pe brennynge soule in helle hete,
Withouten ende wepe thoo.
Allas, oure synnes don vs bete,
pay say, 'wo, wo, wo!
Here is no remedie to gete.'
pay walke in derkenesse to and fro,
pe stynk and derkenesse is so grete,

Allas, in bysternesse we go.

364 The souls in Hell suffer endless pains.

368

(47)

¶ God, that art shapere of al,
Of slyme of erthe pou me wrozt.
Wip by blod principal,
Wonderly pou haste vs bozt.

pouz my body now rote smal,
My soule to my body shal be brozt.
Out of my graue, reyse me pou schal
To lyues man, and fayle nozt,

Thou madest me of earthslime.

Thou shalt unite again my soul with my body.

(48)

¶ Blod and boon, flesche and felle.

Here my prayer: in parfitnesse

At domesday comaunde my soule to dwelle

In Abrahamys bosum, in thy blisse,

Whenne bou shalt delyuere me fram syzt of helle.

bou breke be zates of helle, ywisse,

bou souztest helle in peynes felle,

Zaf lyzt to hem in grete bryztnesse.

Let my soul dwell in Abraham's bosom.

380

384

(49)

At domesday stonde in drede;
I, to come so gret a Iuge byfore,
And shewe for no good dede,
Bote fardel of synnes gadred in store;
pe fendes redy my rolle to rede,
pe countretayle to shewe, pe score,
pe leste steppe pat euere y zede.

I am afraid of appearing before the great judge.

392 The devils will read man's sins,

	(50)	
and his good	¶ The good aungel on his ry3t syde,	
angel will accuse him.	Whenne he hem ladde with merye songe,	396
	And whenne he wolde nost folwe hy[m], glyde	
	Out of the waye, he wente wronge;	
	In vertues he nolde abyde;	
	be good aungel mourned amonge.	400
	"With pe soule nel y chyde;	
	Y zeue be vp for endeles longe."	
	(51)	
	¶ At domesday no man shal be excusyd,	
	Lord ne lady, mayde ne knaue;	404
	ffor wykked counsel scholde be refusyd,	
	And after good counsayle craue.	
Everybody will be judged	After warke pat pay vsed,	
after his	I shal hem deme, or saue.	408
VV O E AED 0	be sauyd excusyd, be dampnyd accusyd,	
	As thay deseruyd echon haue.	
	(52)	
Man will have to	¶ Ech touche and mouynge with hys honde,	
account for all his works.	pe leste twynkelynge wyb his eyze,	412
1102300	His wronge worke sitte or stonde,	
	Ryde or go, sitte or lyze.	
	bous he spede nost bere he dede fonde,	
	Hys conscience wole hym bewrye;	416
	Benefice, auauncement, hous or londe,	
	The leste bargayn pat he dede bye.	

XXV. (Pety Job, or Parce mihi, Domine!)

[Douce MS. 322,1 leaf 10.]

[57 stanzas of 12, abab, abab, and baba or bebe, with Latin subjects.]

Here begynneth the nyne lessons of the Dirige whych Job made in hys tribulacion, lying on the Donghyll, and ben declared more opynly to lewde

III

¹ At the beginning, a coat of arms painted: gules, a chevron azure, between three garbs or, 2 and 1.

mennes vnderstanding by a solempne, worthy, and discrete clerke, Rychard Hampole, and ys cleped pety Job, and ys full profitable to stere synners to compunccion.

VI

(1)

Parce michi, domine, nichil enim sunt dies mei.

Spare me, O Lord,

yef lord, my soule thow spare, I The sothe I sey now sykerly, That my dayes nought they are;

for my life is vain.

ffor though I be bryght of ble, The fayrest man that ys oughware, Yet shall my fayrenesse fade and fle,

4 Though I be the handsomest man.

And I shalbe wormes ware.

yet I shall be the food of worms.

[...no gap in the MS.]And when my body ys all bare, And on a bere brought shal be, I nat what I may synge there But Parce michi, domine.

12

8

(2)

Quid est homo, quia magnificas eum?

What ys a man, wete I wolde, That magnifyeth hymself alway, But a marke, made in molde, Of a clyngyng clot of clay? Thow shopest vs for that we shulde

Man is only a mark made in sand.

Haue ben in blysse for euer and ay; But nowe, allas, bothe yong and olde fforyetyñ hit bothe nyght and day.

Thou madest us to gain Heaven,

A, good lord, what shall I say, I that stande in thys degre? but we don't think of it.

I wote nothyng that helpe may But Parce michi, domine.

24

20

Aut quid opponis erga eum cor tuum, visitas eum diliculo, et subito probas illum?

Or why puttist thow thyn hert ayenst man That thow hast so dere bought? Thow vysyteste hym, and art full fayne

Why doest thou visit and

Sodenly to preue yef he be ought.

28

25

try man?

thou make		
me thy ad- versary?	O fader of heuen, fayre and fre,	
versary:	As thow art bothe good and hende,	
	Yet be kynde as thow hast be,	
Spare me, and let me be thy friend.	And spare me, lorde, that am vnkynde.	56
	Thy frenshyp, fader, late me fynde,	
	As thow art god in trinite.	
	Of thy mercy make me haue mynde	
	Wyth Parce michi, domine.	60

(6)

¹ Cur non tollis peccatum	meum, et quare non aufer	es [1 lf. 10, bk.]
iniquitatem meam?		

Why takest thow nat my syn away, A, thow god of all goodnesse?

And why also, as I the say,

Dost nat awey my wykednesse?

Thow madest me of a clot of clay,

That breketh ofte thorough brotylnesse.

ffull brotyll I am, hit ys no nay;

That maketh me ofte to do amysse.

But good Ihesu, I pray thys ffor thy grete benygnyte:

Thy mercy, lorde, late me nat mys,

But Parce michi, domine.

(7)

Ecce, nunc in puluere dormio; et si mane me quesieris, non subsistam.

Loo, in pouder I shall slepe,

ffor owte of poudere furst I cam, And into poudere must I crepe,

ffor of that same kynde I am.

That I ne am pouder I may not threpe,

ffor erthe I am, as was Adam;

And nowe my pytte ys doluen depe.

Though men me seke, ryght nought I am.

O thow, fader Abraham,

ffor Mary loue, that mayde so fre,

In whos blode thy son swamme,

So Parce michi, domine.

(8)

Edet animam meam vite mee; dimittam aduersum me eloquium meum; loquar in amaritudine amime mee; dicam deo, "noli me condempnare; indica michi cur me ita iudices."

yt forthynketh my soule y-wys, The lyfe that I have lad alway;

ffor now my speche ayenst me ys,

Sothly my lyfe I shall dysplay.

61 Why doest thou not take my wickedness from

64

My weakness

is the cause 68 of my sin-

fulness.

72

I sleep in dust, of which

me.

76

80

84

My soul is disgusted at the life I led.

88

Therfore, lorde, I pray to the,

But Parce michi, domine.

Lese nat thow ones wan,

Warne me when I am mystan, That I may flee fro foule sathan, That ys aboute to perysshe me. 116

132

	,	-	-	٠,
-4		н		
м		А		Ц.

Nunquid sicut dies hominis dies tui et anni tui sicut humana sunt tempora?

Whether thy dayes, lord, be syke

As mennys dayes, that dwellen here,

On the words he cought lyke

Or thy yeres be ought lyke

To the tymes of mannes yere?

124

That day a man ys fresshe and fryke, And sheweth forth a gladsom chere;

But to-morow he wexeth syke,

And haply borne forthe on a bere. 128

Thus mannes tyme ys in a were;
But thy tyme stondeth in oo degre.
Therfore, I pray in thys manere:

Lorde, Parce michi, domine.

(12)

Vt queras iniquitatem meam, et peccatum meum scruteris, et scias quia nichil impium fecerim, cum sit nemo qui de manu tua possit eruere.

ffor to seche my wyckednesse,
And for suche thus all my synne,

133 that thou searchest out my sins?

Me thynketh hit commeth of grete hardnes,
With me, lorde, so to begynne.

136

Shewe thow forth thy grete goodnes,

And thyne hardshyp vp thow pynne.

Thynke opon the brytylnesse
That alwey worcheth me withynne.
And sythen I may nat fro the twyn,
Ne from thyne hande warysshed be,

Think of my weakness, and forgive me my trespasses.

Though I offende more or mynne, Euer Parce michi, domine. 144

(13)

Manus tue fecerunt me, et plasmauerunt me totum in circuitu, et sic repente precipitas me.

Thyne handes, lorde, haue made me,
And formed me in shape of man,
And me thow settest in degre

145
Thou madest me, thou gavest me bliss;
And me thow settest in degre

Of grete nobley after than. 148

	· ·	
thou tookst	But whan I, thorough the sotylte,	
it again away from me	Deceyued was of foule sathañ,	
when the devil de- ceived me.	Thow puttedyst me fro that dignite,	
cerveu me.	Heldyng doune on my brayn pan.	152
	Noon other cause alege I can,	
	But that synne hathe depryued me.	
	Now, for the blood that from the ranne,	
	So Parce michi, domine.	156
	(14)	
	Memento, queso, quod sicut lutum feceris	s me, et in
	puluerem reduces me.	
	Haue mynde, therfore, I the pray,	157
	O thow god, almyghty kynge.	
Thou madest	Thynke thow madest me of clay,	
me of clay, and wilt re-	And in-to clay thow shalt me brynge.	160
duce me to clay.	Suche ys thy myght, and hath be ay.	
	And sythen thow madest furst all thynge,	
	Who dare sey ayene the nay,	
	To lette thy wyll or thy lykyng?	164
	There ys man olde ne yonge	
	That stryue dar ayenst the.	
	Therfore, nede maketh me synge,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine.	168
	(15)	
	Nonne sicut lac mulsisti me, et sicut c	aseum me
	coagulasti?	
Thou madest	Mylkedest nat me, lorde, as mylke,	169
me as soft as cheese.	With nesshe blood whan thow me made?	
	And sythen, lord, that ylke,	
	Ryght as the hardnesse of chese ys hade?	172
	My bloode ys nessher than ys sylke,	
	In reyny weder that sone woll fade,	
	And thus me made do dedys swylke	
	With whyche my goste ys ofte vnglade.	176
	And thus in sinne full depe I wade,	
	That nygh I droune thorow freelte.	
	Although I can of synne nat sade,	
	Yet Parce michi, domine.	180

(16)

(16)		
Pelle <i>et</i> carnib <i>us</i> vestisti me, ossib <i>us et</i>	neruis	Thou clothest me with
compegisti me.		flesh and bones,
With flesshe and felle thow hast me cladde,	181	,
With bones and synewes togeder knyt.		
Lyfe and mercy of the I hadde.		
To gouerne me thow yaue me wyt.	184	and badest
To kepe thyne hestes thow me bade,		me keep thy command-
And seydest that I shuld, for hit,		ments, and gain Heaven.
In heuen blysse be euer gladde;		[leaf 11, bk.]
And yet I woll nat fro syn flytte,	188	
But freelte, lord, so me smytte,		
Vnnethe kepte ys oone for me.		
Nat for than I pray the yet		
ffor Parce michi, domine.	192	
(17)		
Vitam et misericordiam tribuisti michi.		
Lyfe and mercy thow yaue me ay.	193	
When I wold thy mercy craue,		
Thow seydest to me nat ones nay,		
But glad was when I wold hit haue.	196	
Thow were redy nyght and day		I refused thy
With mercy, lord, me to saue;		mercy, which thou wast
But I denyed hit alwey,		always ready to grant,
So woodly syn made me to raue.	200	
I seruyd syn, and was hys knaue.		and became
I dyd that was ayenst me.		a thrall of sin.
Now, lord, when I am leyde in graue,		
Than Parce michi, domine.	204	
(18)		
Et visitacio tua custodivit spiritum meum.		
Thy vysitacion, lorde, hath kepte	205	Thy visita-
My spyryte, that ys me withyn.	200	tion has pre- served me
ffor when I wolde to syn haue lepte,		from sin.
Than holy grace made me to blyn.	208	
And ofte tyme I have sore wept,	200	
The more grace of the to wy \bar{n} .		
And thus with wepyng haue I wypt		
My soule, lord, from dedly synne.	212	

Show me all

I may keep

Why doest

face from me,

and persecute me as thy enemy?

Hell.

Lord, late me neuer werke begynne That in any wyse may displese the; And, som tyme though I fro the twyn, Yet, lord, Parce michi, domine. 216 (19)uantas habeo iniquitates et peccata, scelera mea atque delicta ostende michi. hat wykednes all that I have, 217 my sins, that With my synnes all on an hepe, my soul from the pains of Shewe me hem, or I go to graue, 220 That I for hem may sore wepe; My soule, lord, that I may saue ffrom the pyt of hell so depe, Where synful soules tumble and raue, 224 In endeles woo ataketh good kepe. Toodes of hem doth crowde and crepe, In suche peynes the soules be. ffrom that place I may nat kepe Withouten Parce michi, domine. 228 (20)Cur faciem tuam abscondis, et arbitraris me inimicum tuum? Why hydest thow fro me thy face 229 thou hide thy That ys so full of all fayrenesse? I mene thys somtyme thy grace, That thow withdrawest and yeuest me lace. 232 As thyne enemy thow dost me chace, Demyng me in grete hardnesse. Thy loue fayne wold I purchase Yef thow wolt me hit graunte of thy goodnes. 236 Now graunte me, lord, suche stedfastnes,

That I may stande in oo degre, And though I fall thorow brotylnes, Lorde, Parce michi, domine.

> Contra folium quod vento rapitur, ostendis potenciam tuam, et stipulam siccam persequeris.

Ayenst a leefe, that lyght ys to blowe, To me that am freel of kynde,	241	Thou provest thy power against a leaf.
Thy myght and power dost thow showe,	244	
As though I myght beres bynde. With wyndes ofte I ouerthrowe,	244	
Suche fondyng of the I fynde.		
I renne forthe fro rowe to rowe,		
Som-tyme before, somtyme behynde.	248	
I grope as a man that ys full blynde;	210	
But though I stomble, thow followest me.		
A, lord, though I to the be vnkynde,		
Yet Parce michi, domine!	252	
,	202	
(22)		
Scribis enim contra me amaritudines, et consu	mere	
me vis peccatis adolescencie mee.		
Thow wrytest, lord, ayenst me	253	[leaf 12] Thou writest
Bytternesse, that I shall rede,		bitterness against me,
At domesday, in syght of the,	250	which I shall read on
And all the worlde in length and brede.	256	Doomsday.
That I dyd in pryuyte,		
There opynly hit owte shall sprede;		
And thys thow wylt full well y-se,	200	
And distroy me for my wyked dede.	260	
But, lorde, to the I clepe and grede,		
As thow art lorde of all pyte,		
That day when I shall drope and drede,	261	
Than Parce michi, domine!	264	
(23)		
Posuisti in neruo pedem meum, et obseruasti o	mnes	
semitas meas, et vestigia pedum meorum	con-	
siderasti.		
In a synew thow hast my feet sette,	265	Thou watchest all my
With the whyche that I go shall,		steps.
And all the pathes thow hast mette		
That euer I yede in wey or walle.	268	
There ys nothyng that the may lette		
To knowe my steppes grete and smalle,		
Wycked and worse, good and bette,	-	
I wote well thow considerest alle.	272	
POEMS (OXF.).		

Man lives only a short time, and is always in misery.

130

Keep me from sliding,

and pardon my falling.

I shall be consumed

cloth.

like filth and moth-eaten

> And euery day more and more With hote and colde, and hungor sore, And ofte hym wanteth goddys lore, 296 That gostly wey, he shuld lere. And thus he wandreth in a were, As a man blynde, and may nat se. Therfore I pray the, with louely chere, ffor Parce michi, domine! 300

> > (26)

Qui quasi flos egreditur et conteritur, et fugit velud vmbra, et nunquam in eodem statu permanet.

The whyche spryngeth oute as a floure, He springs up like a flower,

301

That groweth fresshe, all men to glade;

But when he with a sharpe shoure		
Ys smyten, begynneth sone to fade.	304	
So lese I the fayre coloure		
That god almyghty furst in me made,		
And thus I chaunge in euery shoure,		
And fle away ryght as a shade.	308	and vanishes away like a
And herewith I am full lade		shadow.
With synnes of diuerse degre.		
Of heuen blysse me nought degrade,		
But Parce michi, domine!	312	
(27)		
Et dignum ducis super huiuscemodi aperire o	oculos	
tuos, et adducere eum tecum in iudicium.		
And, lord, thow lettest that hit be dygne	313	And such a one thou
Thyne eyeñ to opene vppoñ suche oñ,		thinkest worthy to be
And hym thow shewest, by that sygne,		called before thy tribunal.
That he, with the, to dome shall gone.	316	
Haue mercy on me, Ihesu benygne!		
Me thynketh myn hert ys harder than a ston,		[leaf 12, bk.]
And besyed with a spiryte maligne.		
My flesshe, the worlde, then ben my fone.	320	
These ben myn enemyes, lord, echone,		
Euer aboute to perysshe me.		
Lorde, for the loue of Mary and Iohn		
Euer Parce michi, domine!	324	
(28)		
Quis potest mundum de immundo conce	eptum	
semine? nonne tu, qui solus es?		
But, lord, who may clene make	325	Nobody can make clean a
Conceyued thyng of seede vnclene?		man con- ceived in sin.
Nat thow? A, yes, I vnderstande,		
Yef the lyste to make hit clene.	328	
Allas, I walke in a lake		
Of dedly synne that doth me tene.		
But, lorde, for the loue of Maryes sake,	0.00	
Amende the harme that I of mene.	332	
Y-wys I am nat worthe a bene,		
Of my sylfe, to commendyd be.		
Yet helpe me, lorde, with thy grace shene, And euer Parce michi, domine!	336	

	(29)	
	Breues dies hominis sunt, numerus mensium	eius
	apud te est.	
The days of man are	Mennes dayes ben shorte, beware,	337
short,	And therto take good entente;	
	ffor in respyte of tyme euermare	
	They beth nothyng equipolent.	340
and the number of	The nombre of hys monthes are	
his months is fixed by	Alwey at the, lorde, verament.	
the Lord.	Oure lyfe ys nought but sorow and care	
	TyH we be passed ingement.	344
	My wyttes, lorde, I haue myspent,	
	That thow me yaue to rewle with me.	
	But that I may ryse vp, and here repent,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	348
	(30)	
	Constituisti terminos eius, qui preteriri non	pote-
	runt.	
That term	Hys termes, lord, thow hast ordeyned,	349
cannot be passed unless	How longe he shall now lyue here;	
by the will of God.	That may be nat passe, ne be refreyned,	
	But by thyne absolute power.	352
	Thys sentence may be well susteyned	
	By a story, as we may here,	
	Howe Ezechye to deth-ward peyned,	
	And yet god addyd ouer xv yere.	356
	Hys kyndly tyme was comen full nere,	
	But for hys synnes tho wepte he.	
	Lorde, yeue me grace, that I may here	
	Haue Parce michi, domine!	360
	(31)	
	Recede ergo paululum ab eo, vt quiescat, d	onec
	optata veniat, et sicut mercenarij dies eius.	
Step a little	Therfore, lord, a lytell go awey.	361
away from him, and let	Withdrawe thyn hande, that man may rest	
him rest till	Typ he desyre has dethe day	

the hour of his deliver-ance come.

Tyll he desyre hys dethe day, And wylne to be shut vp in hys cheste, 364 And late hym lyue, yef hym lust ay. Thys holde I, lorde, for the beste.

All disease from hym delay		
TyH the careyn in erthe be keste.	368	
Allas, all thys world now ys myswrest,		
To carpe thys, lorde, ayenst the.		
Make me to thy mercy trest,		
ffor Parce michi, domine!	372	
(32)		
uis michi hoc tribuat, vt in inferno	protegas	
me, donec pertranseat furor tuus?		
Tho to me may yeue or graunte,	373.	Who may grant me pro-
for loue or any affectioun,		tection from thy wrath?
ffro thy wrathe that ys duraunte,		
I may have my proteccioun?	376	
In helle yef I be concurraunte,		
There am I in subjectioun.		
In heuen though thow woldest me haunte,		
Yet there am I at thy correccioun.	380	
I may nat from thy respectioun		I cannot hide myself
By no way, lorde, hyde now me.		from thy eyes.
Therfore seye I thys lessoun		
Of Parce michi, domine.	384	
(33)		
Et constituas michi in quo recorderis mei.		
And thow woldest a tyme ordeyne	385	[leaf 13]
In whyche thow woldest of me haue mynde,		
With som solace me to susteyne,		
That of thy blysse am so fere behynde.	388	
My woo from the can I nat leyne,		
But telle hit the, for thow art kynde.		
I am fast bounde here with a cheyne		I am fettered with a chain
Of dedly synne, full wele I fynde.	392	of sins;
But woldest thow, lorde, me vnbynde		unbind me, O Lord!
Thorough the vertew of thy pyte,		
Than were I glad, and lyght as lynde,		
To haue Parce michi, domine.	396	
(34)		
Putasne mortuus homo rursum viuat?	00#	
Trowest thow nat that man shal ryse	397	Man shall rise after
Ayene to lyfe, that dyed onys?		death.
Yes, and that in a wonderful wyse,		

134	XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!	,
	With flesshe and felle, bloode and bones.	400
God shall	Than shal god hys dome deuyse,	100
take the good with him;	And to hym take the good att ones;	
the damned	But dampned soules shullen sore gryse,	
souls shall suffer eternal	And yeue a shoute with hydous grones.	404
pains.	Thys make they shull wofull mones,	
	AH that shullen dampned be,	
	That I may dwelle withyn the wones	
	Of Parce michi, domine!	408
	(35)	
	Cunctis diebus quibus nunc milito, expecto o	lonec
	veniat immutacio mea.	
I expect my	All the dayes that I lyue here	409
death every day.	In thys wofull wepyng dale,	
	I byde alwey, from yere to yere,	
	Tylł I chaunge, as meñ do fall.	412
	Change I shall withouten were,	
	Nat ay be dwellyng in thys vale;	
	But, lorde, whañ I am leyde oñ bere,	
	Hye vp to heuen my soule hale,—	416
	ffor there commyn neyther grete ne smale	
	But thow drawe hem, lorde, to the,—	
	That my soule be not in bale,	
	But Parce michi, domine!	420
	(36)	
	Vocabis me, et ego respondebo tibi; operi n	nanu-
	um tuarum porriges dexteram.	
On Dooms- day thou shalt	Thow shalt me call at domesday,	421
call me,	When thow art set on iugement,	
and I shall answer.	And I to the, wythouten delay,	
	Shall yeue my answere verament.	424
	But, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	
	Thynke alwey with full entent	
	Thow madest me of a clot of clay;	100
	Thyne handwerke helpe, as thow furst ment;	428
	And with my thought I have myspent,	
	Thorough malyce, here, of frealte:	
	Here, leof lorde, late me repente,	4.2.2

But Parce michi, domine!

(37)

Tu quidem gressus meos dinumerasti, sed parce peccatis meis.

fforsothe, my steppys euerychone 433 Thou hast numbered all Thow nombred hast, and tolde hem all. my steps.

But, lorde, to the I make my mone, Show me thy mercy, 436 As thow art lord of heuen and hell.

Vertues, lorde, though I have none,

Late thy grace in me now welle;

ffor woo ys hym that stante alone, for without thy help, no-And hathe noon helpe yef that he fall. 440 body can rise from his fall.

My syn ys bytter than eyself or gall, And stynketh, lorde, in syght of the.

But nought for than to the I call ffor Parce michi, domine!

444

(38)

piritus meus attenuabitur, dies mei breuiabuntur, et solum michi superest sepulcrum.

y spyryt shal be feble and feynt 445 My spirit will be feeble, When I am fallen in any age,

and my days My dayes, make I neuer so queynt, shortened. Shullen abrege and somwhat swage, 448

And I ful sone shal be atteynt

Whan I have loste myn hote corage;

And though I dyed than as doth a seynt,

A pyt shal be myne herytage; 452 Nothing but the grave In erthe gete I non other wage [leaf 13, bk.] will be left Off all rychesse that man may se. to me.

Whan I am closed in that cage, 456 Than Parce michi, domine!

Non peccaui, et in amaritudinibus moratur oculus

I have nat synned wylfully 457 I have not sinned wil-Thorow my feynt, feble nature, fully,

Ne greued the so greuosly,

Wherfore I shulde thys wo endure. 460

and yet thou Thow punysshest me, and I not why, punishest me. Passing resoun and good mesure.

It is my flesh, and not I, that grumbles	Hit ys my flessh, lorde, and nat I, That grocheth ayenst thyn hard reddure.	464
against Thee.	But, lorde, as I am thy creature,	
	And that ylke god that boughtest me,	
	So my care recouere and cure	
	With Parce michi, domine!	468
	(40)	
	Dies mei transierunt, cogitaciones mee	dissipate
	sunt, torquentes cor meum.	L
My days are	My dayes, lorde, passed are,	469
past,	And olde I am, I am no faunt.	
and my	My thoughtes wandre wyde whare,	
thoughts torment my	ffor they ben, lorde, full variaunte.	472
heart.	Myne herte they greuyn wonder sare,	
	ffor euer aboute hym they haunte.	
	Thys maketh me to drowpe and dare	
	That I am lyke a pore penaunte.	476
	Though I be, lorde, vnsuffisaunte,	
	Any helpe to gete of the,	
	Yet, for I am thy creaunte,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	480
	(41)	
	Noctem verterunt in diem, et rursum post	tenebras
	spero lucem.	
They keep	The nyght they turned in-to the day,	481
me awake at night,	ffor they maden me to wake all nyght.	
	I myght nat slepe by no way,	
	Suche thoughtes were in myn hert plyght.	484
	In derkenesse dymme as I so lay,	
and make me	Yet hoped I after the clere day lyght;	
long for the daylight.	But thoughtys me so trobled ay,	
	That I was than a wofull wyght.	488
	But, lorde, as thow art mekyl of myght,	
	All euyll thoughtes put fro me,	
	And that I of the may have a syght,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	492
	(42)	
	Si sustinuero, infernus domus mea est; ir	tenebris

Si sustinuero, infernus domus mea est; in tenebris straui lectulum meum.

Lorde, yef I shall suffre thys grete disese, Hit woll me brynge vnto my graue. And yet ywys I may nat chese,	This disease of mine will bring me into my grave,
Whether I be kyng, knyght or knaue. 496	
In derkenesse dymme, all oute of ese,	
My lyteH bed spred I haue;	
That bed shall I neuer lese,	
Though I wolde for angor raue, 500 Tyll the day of dome, that of my graue	where I shall
I shall aryse, and mo with me.	rest till Doomsday.
My soule, lorde, I pray, thow saue	,
With Parce michi, domine! 504	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
(43)	
Putredini dixi, pater meus es; mater mea et soror mea, vermibus.	
To roten erthe, ryght thus sayde I, 505	I said to filth, "Thou art
"Thow art my fader of whom I cam,"	my father,"
And vnto wormes sekurly,	and to the worms,
"Thow art my moder, thy son I am; 1 [1 Ms. am I] 508	"You are my mother and
My systren all ye bene, for why,	my sisters."
None other then ye, forsoth I am."	
I shall call hem sustres, lo, for thy, ffor I shall roote amonge hem. 512	
Of the lowest erthe god made Adam,	
Of whyche my kynde I had, as he.	
Now, lorde, that art lykened to a lambe,	
So Parce michi, domine! 516	
(44)	
Vbi est ergo nunc prestolacio ¹ mea <i>et</i> paciencia	[1 leaf 14]
mea? tu es, domine, deus meus.	
Where ys myn abydyng nowe, 517	My patience is gone.
And all my pacience therto?	
They ben away, I wote neuer howe,	
ffor sothe me wanteth bothe two. 520	
Yef myn hert be styf and towe, To thanke the in wele and woo,	
Hit ys nat I, but only thow,	
Thow art my lord and god also. 524	
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	O thow grete lord, alpha and oo,	
	Helpe me, for thy grete pyte!	
	I haue y-nowgħ, I pray the, hoo,	
	And Parce michi, domine!	528
	(45)	
	TElli mee consumptis carnibus adhe	sit os
	meum, et derelicta sunt tantummode	
	circa dentes meos.	
My skin is	TO my skyñ my mouth ys, lo,	529
wrinkled,	And cleued fast, as ye se may;	
	And wasted ys my flesshe also,	
my lips are	And bothe my lyppes ben away.	532
shrunk, and my white	76	
teeth black.	Ye wolde be agaste, yef ye me say.	
	Myne heryng ys full clene ago,	
	Myne eyen ben dymme, pat weren ful gray;	536
	And I that was full stoute and gay,	
	ffull horyble am now opon to se.	
	Tyme ys that men now for me prav,	
	ffor Parce michi, domine!	540
	(46)	7.9
	Miseremini, miseremini mei, saltem vos, amic	i mei.
	quia manus domini tetigit me.	,
Have pity on	Reweth on me!	541
me, at least you, my	My frendes namly, now helpeb at nede!	
friends,	ffor I am there I may nat fle.	
	The hande of god ful sore I drede.	544
	And frendes, seeth that I am he,	011
	Thys other day that on the erth yede.	
and help me	Now helpe, yef that youre wyll be,	
with prayer, fasting, and	With prayer, fastyng, and almes-dede.	548
almsdeeds.	ffor these mowen best gete me mede	010
	With Placebo And Dirige.	
	Herewith my soule I pray yow fede,	
	With Parce michi, domine!	552
	(47)	002
	Quare persequimini me sicut deus, et carnibus	meis
	saturamini?	111013
	Why, as god, do ye pursewe	553
	Me that suffre these sharpe shoures?	000
	2.20 that barre those sharpe shoules?	

Ye lat me peyne here in a peynfull pewe,		
	56	
Yow I chese for frendes trewe,		
And made yow myne executoures.		I made you
But tyme shall come that ye shall rewe		my executors,
	60	
My good ye spent, as hit were youres,		and you will
But nat a peny yeuyn ye me.		not spend a penny to
Nowe for all suche faytoures,		soothe my pains.
Lorde, Parce michi, domine!	64	
(48)		
Quis michi tribuat, vt scribantur sermones mei?	?	
Who may graunte me thys boone, 5	65	
That my wordes wreten were		Who will let
In ensample of euerychoñ		my words be written down for
That hap may to ben in care?	68	others to take an ex-
ffor yef they wolden make moone,		ample by me in misery?
Eyther groche with hert sare		5
Ayenst god, that sytteth in troone,		
Because, yef they wolden spare, 5	72	
And make nat so ferly fare,		
But take ensample wolden of me.		
Now, lorde, as I am but wormes ware,		
So Parce michi, domine!	76	
(49)		
Quis michi det vt exarentur in libro stilo ferro	eo,	
aut plumbi lamina vel celte sculpantur in silic		
, and the same of	77	
To wryte hem by oon and oone,		
My booke with ynke blak or rede,		
	80	
Or ellys yet in plate of lede, Or grauen in harde flynte of stone,		Or who will have them
That all men, where euer they yede,		[leaf 14, bk.] graven in
	84	flintstone?
I wolde my frendys and my foon	O T	
Ensample take myght by me.		
As thow art thre, and god aloon,		
	88	

(50)

Scio enim quod redemptor meus viuit, et in nouis-
simo die de terra surrecturus sum, et rursum
circumdabor pelle mea, et in carne mea videbo
deum, saluatorem meum.

I know that my Saviour liveth, I wote ryght well that myn redemptour 589 Lyueth yet, and lyue shall aye,

and that I shall arise from my grave,

And I shall ryse, I not what oure,
Oute of the erthe on domysdaye,

592

And take to me my furst coloure, In flesshe and felle, clad on clay.

and behold him.

And so shall I see my sauyour

Deme the worlde in wondre aray.

596

The wikked than, withouten delay, As arowes, to helle they shullen fle.

Lorde, that I go nat that way, So Parce michi, domine!

(51)

Quem visurus sum ego ipse, et oculi mei conspecturi sunt, et non alius.

600

604

I shall see him myself with these eyes of mine. Whan I mysylfe shall see in syght

With eyen clere, and hert[e] stable,

And knowe hym as god almygħt,
That was for me man disparitable,

Shall ther fore me noon other wyght
Se my god that ys durable,

But I mysylfe, with eyen bryght,
Shall hym beholde most honorable.

608

O lord, that charyte that ys so amyable, And bryght shynyng in thy mageste, That syght to se, lord, make me able,

Thorow Parce michi, domine! 612

(52)

Reposita est hec spes mea in sinu meo.

I hope to recover from my disease, Thys hope ys in myn hert[e] sette,

That neuer from me shall dysseuere.

613

Thereyn my truste also ys knette,

The whyche to haue now ys me leuere.

616

I hope to god that I shall gete

Of all diseases yet rekeuere,		
And se my lorde in hys turete,		and to see
	20	the Lord on his throne.
Though I be synfull, lorde, take me neuer		-
In any thyng that may displese the.		
Thy blysse, late me haue for euer,		
	24	
(53)		
Quare de vulua eduxisti me, qui vtinam co	on-	
sumptus essem, ne oculus me videret?		
	25	I wish I had
A, Oute of the wombe that I was in?		been con- sumed in my
Wold god I had consumed be		mother's womb;
With-in myn oune moders skynne, 6	28	
That the eye, with whyche I se,		
Had nat seyn nomore ne mynne,		
That I myght in that degre		
Neuer haue wyste what had be synne, 6	32	then I should
ffor syn maketh me from the to twynne,		never have sinned.
That of nought madest thow me.		
Thy mercy, lord, make me to wynne		
With Parce michi, domine!	36	
(54)		
ffuissem quasi non essem, de vtero translatus	ad	•
tumulum.		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	37	
As a thyng that neuer was;		
ffor all with synne I am be-stadde,		
U U	40	But now I trespass
No wonder though I be vngladde,		every day.
And though I synge often allas;		
ffor pure woo I wexed madde,		
	44	
Lo, lorde, lo, I am ryght as		
A wytles man withouten the;		
But as thow of plente mercy has,	4.0	[leaf 15]
,	48	
(55)		
Nunquid non paucitas dierum meorum finiet breui?	ur	
breut ;		

misery.

Where ben mo peynes than tonge may telle, 676 The londe of dethe and of duresse, In whyche noon order may dwelle, The londe of wepyng and of drerynesse, 680 And stynkyng sorow on to smelle:

Now from that londe that cleped ys helie,

Worthy lord, rescue now thow me,

So that I maye euer with the dwelle

Thorough Parce michi, domine!

Rescue me now, to dwell ever with 684 Thee!

Here endeth the ix lessons of the Dirige, which Yob made in his tribulacion.

XXVI.

[Douce 322, leaf 15.]

[19 stanzas of 8, 12 or 16, in alternates.]

[A picture comes here of a man lying in a field under a tree. A dejected-looking bird stands near, with a scroll coming from its mouth, on which are the words "Parce michi."—A. F. P.]

(1)

Here begynneth a tretyse of Parce michi, domine.

By a forest syde, walkyng as I went, Disporte to take, in o mornyng,

A place I fonde shadyd with bowes I-bent, Y-set aboute with floures so swete smellyng.

I leyde me doune apon that grene,

And caste myn eyen me aboute;

I fonde there byrdys with feders shene, Many oon sittyng apon a rowte.

Oon byrde there-by sate on a brere:

Here federes were pulled, she myght nat fle.

She sate and sange with mornyng chere,

"Parce michi, domine!

Spare me, lorde, kyng of pyte,"

Thus seyng thys byrde in pore aray;

"My myrthe ys go, and my iolyte,

I may nat fle as other may.

My federes shene bene pulled me fro,

My youth, my streyngthe, and my beawte.

Wher-thorough I take thys songe me to:

Parce michi, domine!"

I cannot fly like other birds, for I have lost my feathers.

Spare me,

O Lord!

[leaf 15, bk.]

20

(3)

When I herde thys morning song, I drewe to thys byrde nere and nere,

On my walk by a forest,

I found a nice shadowy place, where I stopped.

Birds were merrily flying 8 to and fro.

> Only one sat still and sang:

12

144	XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, Domin	e!'
I asked that	And asked who had don thys wrong,	
bird	And brought her in so drowpyng chere,	24
who had	And who had pulled her feders awey,	
pulled out her feathers.	That shuld her bere from tre to tre,	
	And why she sange in her lay	
	Parce michi, domine!	28
	(4)	
She answered "I'll tell you,	The byrde answered, and seyde me tyll,	
	"Man, be in pese, for crystes sake.	
	Yef I shewe the myn hertys wyll,	
43 3. 74	Peynes me sore wolf awake.	32
though it will renew	Yef thow wolt take my worde in mynde,	02
my grief.		
	There shall no sorow be my lettyng,	
	That I nyll holy myne herte vnbynde,	36
	And sothely telle the thyne askyng,	90
	Whyche were my feders that were so clere,	
	And who hath pulled hem all fro me,	
	And why I syt singyng on brere	40
	Parce michi, domine!	40
	(5)	
I had four feathers,	ffeders iiij I had y-wys,	
,,,	The two were set on euery wynge.	
	They bare me breme to my blys,	
	Where me lust be at my lykyng.	44
Youth, Beauty, Strength, and Riches.	The furst was 'youth,' the ijde 'beawte,'	
	'Streyngth' and 'ryches' the other two.	
	And now they been, as thow mayst se,	
	AH iiij federes fallen me fro.	48
Youth, my principal feather,	My principal federe, youthe hit was.	
	He bare me ofte to nysete;	
	Wherefore my songe ys now, allas,	
	Parce michi, domine!	52
	(6)	
often brought me to folly, and made me waste my time in sinful pleasures.	In youthe I wrought folyes fele,	
	My hert was set so hygh in pryde,	
	To synne I yaue me euerydele,	
	0 1 T 11 1	56
	Spared I neyther tyme ne tyde.	90
	I was redy to make debate.	90
		90

(9)

Thys feder me bare full ofte to synne, And pryncipally to lechery. POEMS (OXF.).

Parce michi, domine!

This feather brought me to lechery,

92

1.

Parce michi, domine!

132

(12)

Thys feder bare me beyonde the see, often bore me beyond the To gete me name in vncouth lande. sea, to get renown and To robbe and slee, had I deynte, riches. 136 Ne spared I neyther for no bande. Of holy churche toke I no yeme, Bokes to take, ne vestement. There myght nothyng so moche me queme As robbe, or se an abbey brente. 140 With streyngth I gate me grete aray, Precious clothes, golde, and fee. I thought full lytell on that day, 144 Parce michi, domine! (13)When Nabugodonozor, ferse in fyght, Nebuchadnezzar plun-dered Jeru-Ierusalem had thought to wynne, salem, and And so he dyd with mayne and myght, carried away with him all 148 the gold of the temple. And brent the temples that were theryn, And all the golde that he there founde, He toke with hym, and home gan ryde, Hym thought there shuld nothlyng withstonde; He thought nothing could Hys hert was sette so hygh in pryde, 152 resist him. Tyll the kyng of myghtes moste But God drove him Brought hym there that lowest was, into a wilderness, And caught hym from hys ryall hoste, And drofe hym to a wyldernesse. 156 And there he lyuyd with herbe and rote, where he lived on Walkyng euer on foot and on honde, roots Tyll cryste of mercy dede hym bote, till Christ had mercy And hys pryson oute of bonde. 160 upon him. Than sayde thys kyng these wordys y-wys: 'All thyng be, lorde, at thy pouste; Mercy I crye, I have do mys; Parce michi, domine!' 164 (14)Whyle I had my streyngth at wyll, While I had

ffull many a man I dyd vnreste.

They that wold nat myne heste fulfyll,

My knyfe was redy to hys breste.

harmed and threatened others.

strength,

1 often

148	XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, Do	mine!'
Now I am blind and lame.	And nowe I syt here blynde and lame, And croked ben my lymes all.	
	I was full wylde, I am now tame.	
	Thys feder of streyngth ys fro me fall.	172
Old age has	And now hathe age smetyñ me fro	
plucked this feather from my wing.	My thryd feder of iolyte.	
	ffor all that ever I have mysdo,	
	Parce michi, domine!	176
	(15)	
My fourth	My fourth feder, 'Ryches' was.	
Wealth; to get which	To make hit shyne, I trauayled sore.	
1 travelled	I wente in many a perylous place,	
[leaf 16, bk.]	Well ofte my lyfe was nygh for-lore.	180
	By dale, by doune, by wodes syde,	
	I boode many a bytter shoure;	
	In salt see I sayled well wyde	
	ffor to multiply my tresoure.	184
and fre- quently did	With false sleyghtes I gate my good,	
wrong.	In Couetyse I grounded me.	
	Ihesu, for thy precious blood,	
	Parce michi, domine!	188
	(16)	
	When I was seker of golde y-nowgh,	
	I gan to ryde abowte well faste.	
	I purchased moche, and god wote howgh.	
	I wende thys lyfe wolde euer haue laste.	192
I had splendid castles and towers built,	I lete me bylde castelles and toures,	
	Withoute y-warded with stronge dyches,	
	Withyn y-bylde halles and bowres;	
	There was no toure my castell lyche.	196
	In thys was set all my lykyng,	
and turned	And torned me, lorde, holy from the.	
wholly from God.	To the I crye now, heuen kyng,	
	Parce michi, domine!	200
	(17)	
When I was on the sum- mit of my fortune, I lost all my property,	When I was most in all my flowres,	
	And had aboute me wyfe and chylde,	
	I lost my cateH and my toures.	
	Then wexed myn hert in party mylde.	204

CateH felle fro me sodeynly; Ryght as hit came, hit went awey. Men seyen 'good geten vntrewly, The iijde eyre browke hit ne may.' I was full wylde, I am now tame. ffortune hath pulled ryches fro me.	208	as quickly as I had got it. No 3rd heir can inherit ill-gotten goods.
Your wreche, lorde, I cannat blame. Parce michi, domine! (18)	212	
Iob was rycher then euer was I, Of golde, syluer, and oper good; Hit felle hym fro, and that sharply,		Job was richer than I, and he lost all his fortune.
As dyd the water out of the flood. Hym was nat lefte so mekyH a clothe Hys naked body for to hele.	216	
Hym lacked crostys of a lofe, When hym lyste ete in tyme of mele. And yet he helde vp then hys hande, And seyde, 'hygh god in mageste,'	220	Yet he thanked God for his send- ing.
I thanke the of thy swete sande. Parce michi, domine!' (19)	224	
Now Parce michi, domine! My ioy, my myrthe, ys all agone. Youthe, streyngth, and my beawte, My federes fayre, be fall me fro.	228	Spare me, O Lord,
Wherto ys a mañ more lyke, Theñ to a floure that spryngetħ in may? All that lyueñ, bothe pore and ryche,	22	Man withers like a flower."
Shall dye, vnknowyng of her day." I set me doune apon my kne, And thanked thys byrde of here good lore.	232	I knelt down and thanked the bird for
I bethought me well, of thys worde parce, Was bale and bote of gostly sore. Now parce, lorde, and spare thow me,	236	her lesson. 'Spare me,
Thys ys a worde that sone geteth grace. And parce geteth goddys pyte, And sheweth to vs hys blessed face.	240	O Lord,' is a word to get mercy.
Amen,		

¹ Line 222 is repeated after line 223.



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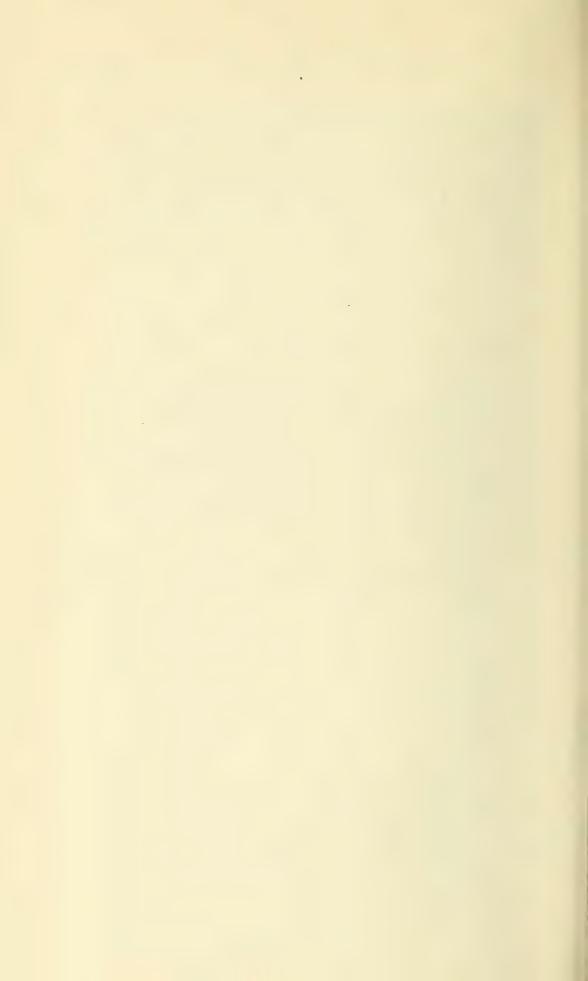
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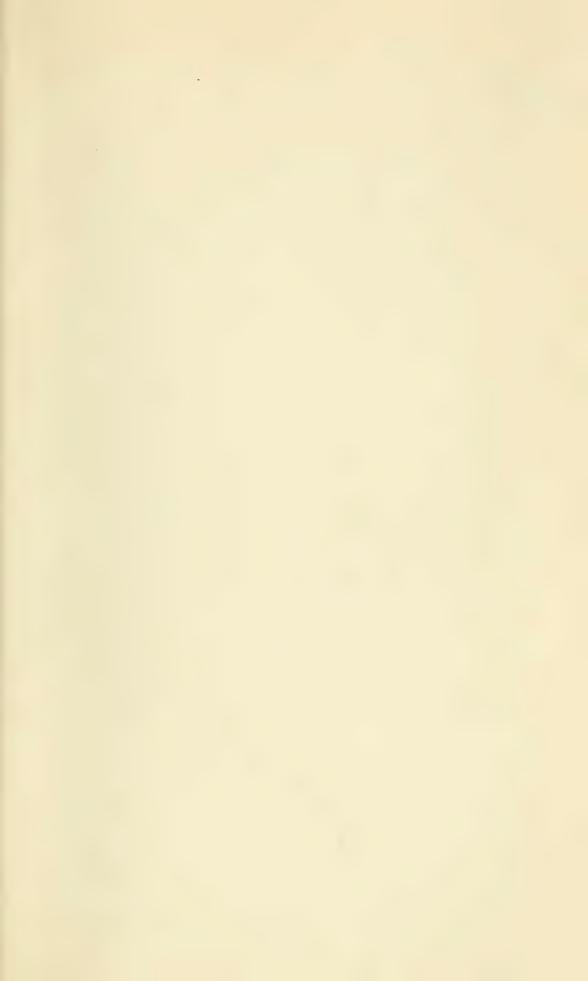
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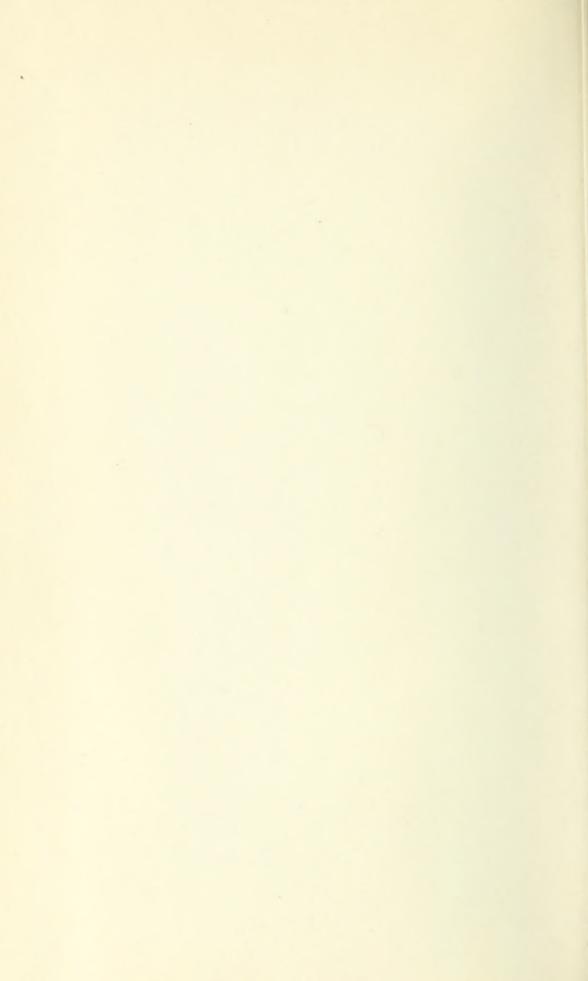














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